

# WOPONI

August 14, 1966

fashion victims

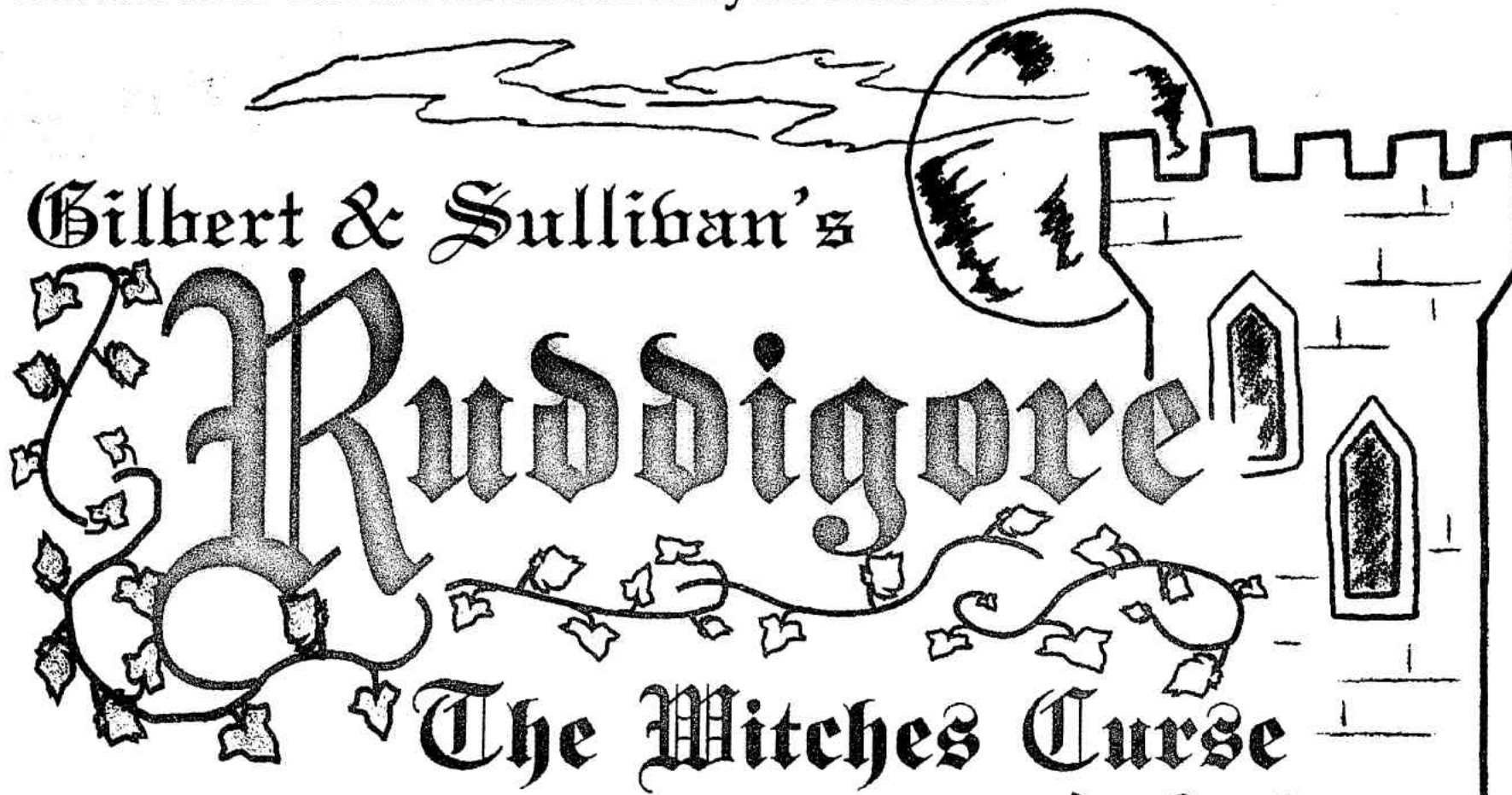
scavanger hunt

heroin trial

judith lucy

Burton and Garran Amateur Players Present:

Gilbert & Sullivan's  
**Ruddigore**  
The Witches Curse



**Performances:**  
8pm August 28, 29, 30  
1pm August 30  
ANU Arts Centre

**Tickets:** \$10 Concession  
\$14 Full Price  
Tickets from ANU Arts  
Centre Ph 2495491



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**BUSH WEEK '97**  
**ANU BAR**  
**AUGUST**



**CENTURY CHALLENGE** MON 18  
**FUNKY, ACID, AFRO, LOUNGE** WED 20  
**BUSH SLUG** THU 21  
**CAMPUS BAND COMP** FRI 22



**COVER:** Crushed by compactus — the latest way to die. John wears short-sleeved shirt (\$4), knitted vest (\$5), and nerd-boy glasses (\$1.50) all from Mancare, Fyshwick. Photo: Jason Richardson

**get to the point**

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**fashion victims**

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# WORONI

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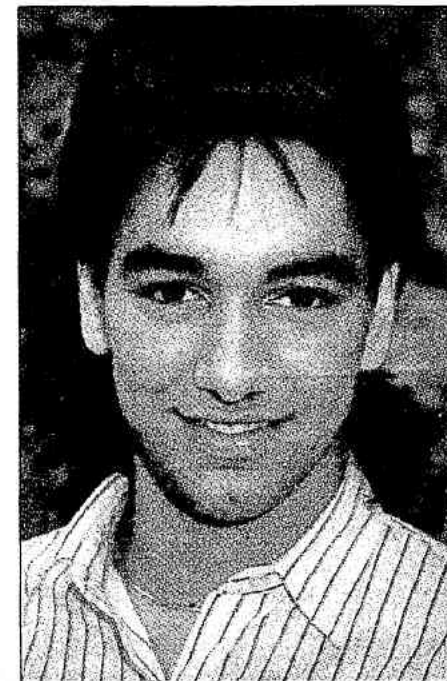
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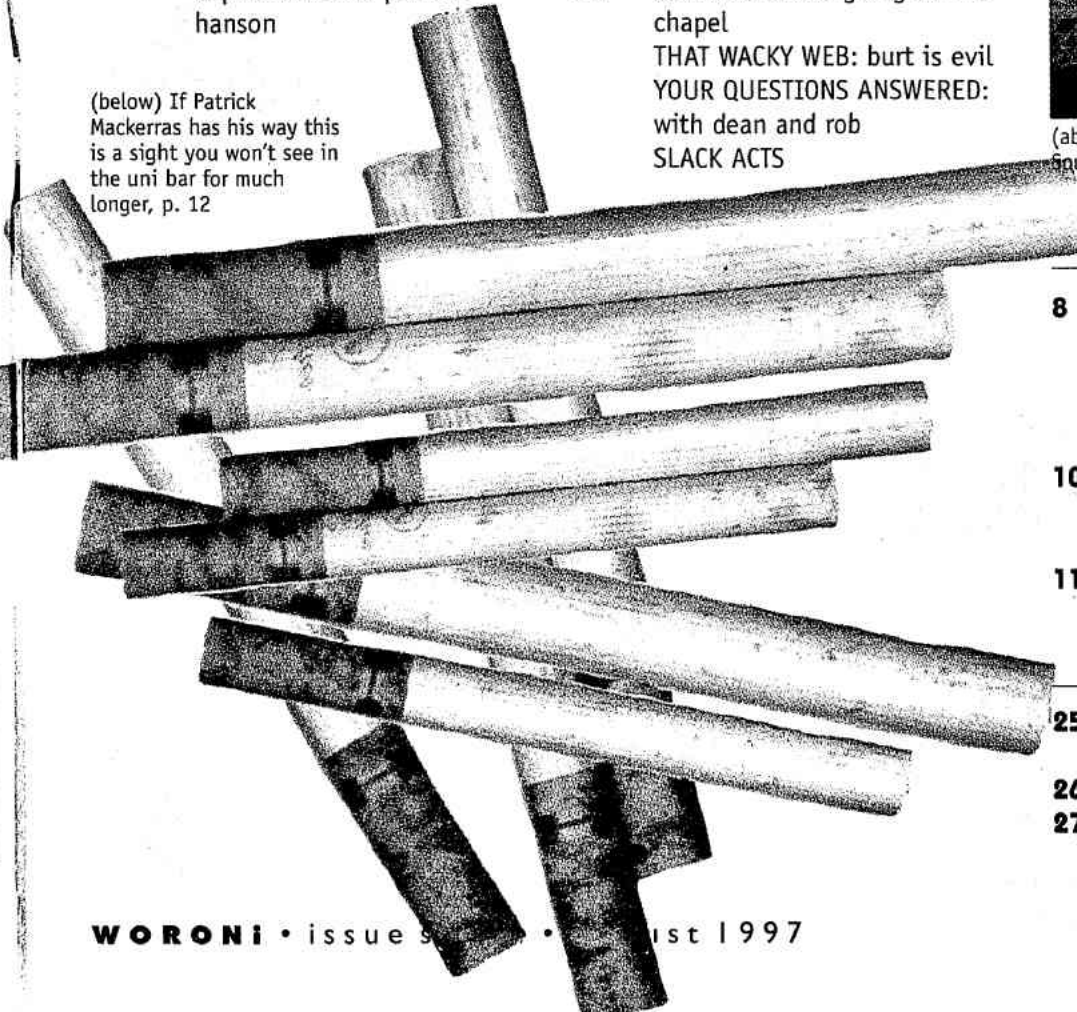
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(above) Alex "pap smear" Papps brushes up his journalistic skills for the next issue of Woroni, p. 35



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# FIRST UP

you send my so

Thursday

14

AUGUST

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| 27   | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    | 28        | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

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That which does not kill us makes us stronger.  
— Nietzsche

1997

Calendar

## AUGUST

- 14 Jazz n' Jugs with the Whitlams at the Uni bar
- 15 John Reed Club at Gypsy
- 16 Tea Party and Dead Star at the Bar
- 16 LOUD Information Day, Gorman House Arts Centre
- 14-16 The Club by David Williamson at the Canberra Theatre
- 20 Funky, Acid, Afro, Lounge at the Bar
- 20-1 Vika and Linda Bull at Tilley's
- till 20 Turner's Turning at the Spiral Arm Gallery, Kingston
- 22 The Red Chihuahua, Currong Theatre at Gorman House
- 27 Cordrazine at Gypsy
- 28 Big Heavy Stuff at Gypsy
- 28-30 Ruddigore by Gilbert and Sullivan 8pm at the ANU Arts Centre, presented by Burton and Garran Hall
- 30 Elephunk, Way Hip Antelopes and Crumpet at the Bar
- 30 Stephen Cummings at Tilley's
- 30 Dynamic School of Dance presents Hollywood Boulevard at Llewellyn Hall, 7pm
- till 31 Recent Work by Lukas Kandler at the Drill Hall Gallery

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 Midnight Oil at the Bar
- 6-7 ACT Tournament of Minds, MCC
- 11 Grinspoon, Moler and Non Intentional Lifeform at the Bar
- 12 ACT Campus Band Comp Final at the Bar
- 12-3 The Bald Primadonna at Gorman House, presented by the French Collective
- 13 ANU Open Day



## Celebrity Look-alike

The eerie similarity between ordinary Canberran Pip and Icelandic pop superstar Björk was first noticed by her friends while Pip was overseas — sparked by her quirky personality and her tendency to assault foreign journalists when travelling. For her fortuitous irrationality, Pip has won two free tickets to the Uni bar concert of her choice. If you or any of your friends look like someone famous, either real or imaginary, come into the Woroni office and let us check it out.

You too can use the entirely accidental circumstance of your resemblance to a celebrity to WIN! WIN! WIN!

(left and top) Pip and Björk share impeccable dental hygiene

“Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a during an interview to become spokesperson

## What's On In Canberra

### THE BALD PRIMADONNA

The French Collective of the ANU is staging a production of Ionesco's *La Cantatrice Chauve* (The Bald Primadonna). This classic piece of absurdist theatre, an “anti-play” as Ionesco described it, will be performed in the original French, but the language is simple so if you know a bit, or used to study it at high school, you will probably understand it. Performances will be at the Currong Theatre, Gorman House, at 8pm on Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th

of September. Admission is \$8 and \$5 for concessions. For more info (or even bookings) leave a message with an after-hours number on 257 7973.

### THE RED CHIHUAHUA

For one night only, the creators of the box office breaking *3 Sisters Called Eve* present an evening of seductive performance, red wine, live jazz, fabulous hairdos and good late night out at the Red Chihuahua. The Red Chihuahua is a completely fabricated venue where the audience are invited into decadent, and slightly sleazy surrounds and treated to one of the most atmospheric evenings available practically anywhere. The Red Chihuahua features the

jazz band More Famous than the Moon — invoking the mood of fifties chic and glamour. The Currong Theatre at Gorman House will be completely transformed, tables and chairs (the bar will be open), and a cabaret stage which features exciting performances by some of Canberra's most infamous directors: Roland Manderson, David Branson, Matthew Aberline, Nicholas Bolonkin and Miranda Rose. Friday 22 August at 11 pm.

### AT THE BAR

Don't leave town this month, because those groovy people down at the bar have organised a great line up to see you through semester two. Thursday 14 August is Jazz n Jugs night with the Whitlams (free to ANU students), 15th is heat 3 of the Campus Band Comp (\$2 students). The Tea Party and Dead Star take the stage on the 16th — tickets on sale now (\$31.70). Wednesday 20 Funky, Acid, Afro, Lounge, and 22nd is heat 6 of the Campus Band Comp. Ill Lizard Beats perform on August 27, followed by Slipshot and support on the 29th. Saturday 30 is Elephunk and Way Hip Antelopes and Crumpet. Midnight Oil's all ages show is on the 3rd of September (tickets \$21.70, doors open 7.30). Thursday 11 brings us Grinspoon, Moler and Non Intentional Lifeform. The final of the ACT Campus Band Comp takes place on Friday 12 September. Also watch out for the Presidents of



(above) If you go to the LOUD information day, you too could pick up a fashionable LOUD T-shirt

## The Exeloo

OK, What's the caper? Like alien breeding pods these bloody 'Exeloo's' have quietly sprung up all over Civic, designed specifically it would seem, to annoy the living shit (pun entirely intended) out of the toilet going public. With all the technology of the Space Shuttle, and all the efficiency of the Mir Space Station, these merry little public conveniences contrive to be the friendliest public toilets in the world but paradoxically manage to completely intimidate all who use them.

The 'Exeloo experience' begins when the ominous automatic doors open and beckon you to the world of high-security ablutions. Then comes the music. What can we possibly say about the overpowering nature of this intrusive and yet hauntingly sterile tune? Like the national anthem of an obscure South American nation (you know the ones you hear when Costa Rica wins something at the Olympics) this 'call waiting' music blasts out at decibels that would have done Motorhead proud. Then comes the eerie flushings that occur every time you go to wash your hands and open the door. For some unfathomable reason the amount of water allowed to wash one's hands seems to be about a tenth as much as that which gets wasted with the toilets' repeated, and increasingly frenzied, flushing.

The new 'Exeloo's' have done the seemingly impossible. They have successfully combined all the grottness of the public toilets of old with all the technology of tomorrow. The result is kind of ludicrous absurdity that only Canberra could possibly offer and, for that reason, Exeloo, *Woroni* salutes you.



## WORONI

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### this issue's song lyrics:

"WAKE  
 ME UP BEFORE YOU GO-GO"  
 PERFORMED BY WHAM

woroni is the official publication of the  
 australian national university students'  
 association

the opinions expressed in woroni are  
 not necessarily those of the editors,  
 students' association or woroni staff  
 "Everybody wants something they'll  
 never give up. Everybody wants  
 something they'll take your money, and  
 never give up."

deadline for next issue:  
 August 28

st a very important part of your life" — Brooke Shields,  
 rson for a federal U.S. anti-smoking campaign.



(above) Lovely sisters Vika and Linda appear at Tilley's on August 20-21. Mum and dad must be so proud.

the United States of America, tickets on sale soon. Tickets are currently on sale for Vercua Salt (\$25.00), Ben Folds Five and Cordrazine (\$21.50) and Cake (\$28.70). Doors open at 8pm for most gigs, don't be late.

### THE CLUB

"It's an all male cast, but definitely not an all male show", so says Nathan Page currently starring in *The Club*, showing at the Canberra Theatre till August 16. In 1977, David Williamson wrote a play about football; a once successful Aussie Rules club hasn't won a premiership in 19

years. Run by a wheeler-dealer, meat pie manufacturing megalomaniac of a president who has never pulled on a boot, the Club is having trouble with its expensive, imported star; trying to get rid of its loyal, longtime coach; and facing a strike from the rest of the team. When money and ego are at stake, men will do very funny things to each other and Australia's most successful playwright puts the boot in with trademark vigour and wit. *The Club* satirises the all-male football scene, but is relevant to all the walks of life in which administration and behind

the scenes bitching controls what is really going on." — Nathan Page. A male dominated sport and industry is seen through the eyes of a woman, as director Rosalba Clemente exposes not only the sacred rituals of football but of masculinity as it is played out in the field.

### LOUD INFORMATION DAY

LOUD is Australia's first national media festival of youth culture and the arts. It is a 'virtual festival' which will take place entirely in the media throughout the month of January 1998.

There will be a wide range of initiatives for young Australians to showcase their talent across four media arenas: TV, radio, print, and the internet. Plans currently include two national magazines, a nationally televised short film festival, a national website design competition, a national cartoon competition and more. To get involved, call the LOUD info/faxback line on 1900 122 221 or check out the LOUD website at [www.loud.net.au](http://www.loud.net.au). There will be an information day on Saturday, 16 August at 2pm for all of those interested in finding out how to get involved at Studio D, Gorman House Arts Centre, Batman St, Braddon.

### RED CROSS WATTLE DAY

What are 'wattlers'? The Australian Red Cross ACT would like to invite all to celebrate the coming of Spring to Canberra on 1 September. The Red Cross needs volunteers to sell Wattle Day biscuits, badges and bookmarks for a few hours at local shopping centres on Saturday 30 August and Monday 1 September. The Red Cross also needs volunteers to sell Wattle Day merchandise on campus. You will receive heart felt thanks from Red Cross, recognising and promoting Wattle Day to everyone. It's easy — the goods almost sell themselves, and a letter of acknowledgment looks great in any resumé. Contact Wayne Evans on 206 6004 or Carolyn Vincent on 206 6045 for more details.

# LETTERS

'til my feet do the

## Phantom pisser caught on tape

Dear *Woroni*,  
After reading the section entitled "Slack acts" (*Woroni*, 49/6) about an anonymous urinator in the foyer of the Center Cinema, we were forced to look over security camera video footage from the past six months. Amongst evidence of graffiti, minor theft and over-excited couples, we found a four and a half minute sequence of the phantom pisser in action. The tape has been given to Canberra police, along with a urine sample collected on the night in question. The video footage illustrates quite clearly that the perpetrator has an exceptionally small penis and would be advised in future not to show it again in public for fear of further ridicule.

—THE STAFF AT CENTER CINEMA

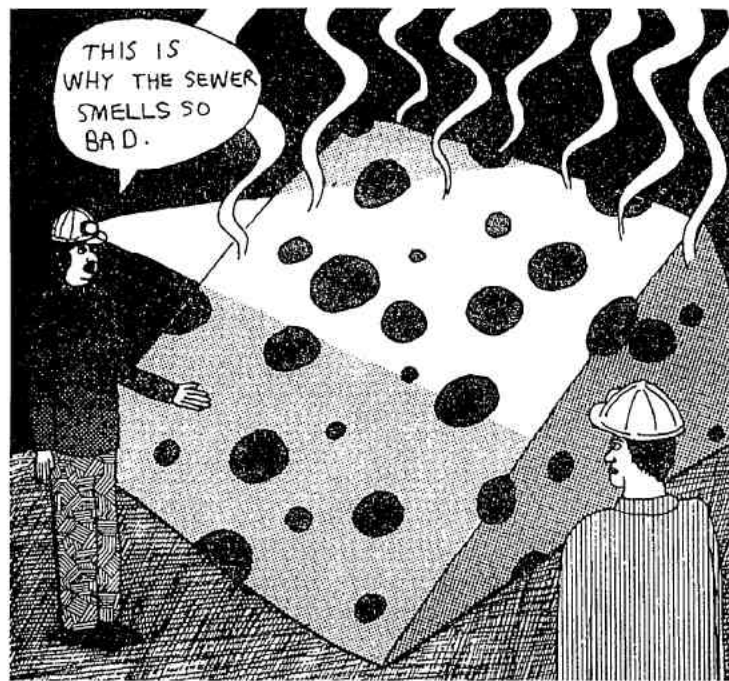
### His royal indieness gets it wrong

Dear *Woroni*,  
A message to Paul Harris:  
I, your humble servant, was most shocked when I read your article "Frock 'N' Roll" (*Woroni* 49/6). I was so aggrieved to see that Your

Royal Indieness showed such a disregard towards glam rock in general and The New York Dolls in particular. A disregard which, if I may be permitted to criticise your lofty ideals, stems from an ignorance of the history of Rock 'N' Roll.

Your Indieness said that "The New York Dolls... could never have done it without bands like The Ramones and The Sex Pistols." For the record: The New York Dolls formed in 1971, released two albums with the original line up, the last of which was in 1974. The Ramones formed in 1974 and released their first album only in 1976. The Sex Pistols were the 'baby' of the group, they formed in 1975 and released their first album in 1977.

What Your Indieness said is therefore chronologically impossible. But not only that, it is also ideologically impossible. If Your Indieness were to stoop just a little low to watch the *Dancing in the Street* doco entitled "No Fun", you would understand that all the New York punk scene — of which The Ramones were one of the leaders, and which



inspired the English punk movement — wanted was "to play the songs The New York Dolls play, but without the clothes." So in fact, had The New York Dolls never existed The Ramones, The Sex Pistols, and all those "who never had to resort to a dress to shock" would have had no reason *not* to dress up and (shock, horror) no musical direction to follow! It's The Ramones & Co. who could never have done it without The New York Dolls.

Your humble servant only wishes

that in Your Indieness' quest for *Woroni* domination (I lost count of the number of articles Your Indieness wrote in the last *Woroni*. Couldn't you think of a pseudonym? What about HRI Liam Noel Damon Gaz Evan Jarvis Malkmus? Is that indie enough?), you would pay more attention to facts and less to inaccurate indie rhetorics.

—C. C. DEVILLE

### Chasing Amy: trying to be funny

Dear *Woroni*,  
Let's not beat around the bush! Paul Harris' review of Kevin Smith's *Chasing Amy* was *crap!* Absolute shite! I can only imagine that Paul has referred to himself as "Paul H" in an desperate attempt to avoid the embarrassment which would accompany an entertaining, yet mis-directed review.

Yes Paul, *Chasing Amy* does explore the fantasy which many young males wish to fulfil: a 'conversion' — converting a lesbian to the apparent joys of heterosexuality. A contentious point, many may argue! Furthermore, Smith tends to insinuate that Alyssa's (the lesbian's) sexual orientation is irrational when contrasted to the more conventional virtues which accompany the protagonist's heterosexuality.

But there is more to *Chasing Amy*. Smith's verbose, almost implausible dialogue, captures the viewer's attention and holds it. Yes, it might seem a little too rehearsed. But *Chasing Amy* is witty. Holden, Banky, and Alyssa are appealing for their perverse honesty. These characters are funny. Their conversational topics are funny. And their awkward situations are funny. A funny film. And that's all it tries to be.

—BEN PHELPS

### Cover disappointment

Dear *Woroni*,  
I was shocked upon seeing the cover of edition #6. At the end of edition #5 it was promised that the cover of the next edition would be one of those great 3-D pictures, but for

some reason it's not. I (and surely countless others) wonder why we have been denied our precious 3-D cover. So, in the words of that famous duo, Martin and Malloy, "Please Explain".

—MICHAEL PEREZ

### Prawn on a pedestal

Dear *Woroni*,  
I am writing this in response to *Woroni*'s coverage of the One Nation rally protest where Hamish McPherson decided the key message to get across was a gooby at a policeman rather than anything of public concern regarding the problems with the One Nation party.

It seems to me and anyone with a remnant of intelligence realises that behaviour such as that shown by Hamish does nothing but embarrass Hamish himself, bring ANU into disrepute, embarrass Hamish's family, and generally expose Hamish for what a misguided fuckwit he obviously is. So why publish this article *Woroni*? Do you have that little pride in the ANU that you'll publicly state that the perpetrator in this incident is from ANU? Don't you think that rather than putting prawns such as this on a pedestal we should be ignoring such behaviour and or better still burning the instigators of such stupidity at the stake? Actions such as these put any progress legitimate anti-One Nationists have made back behind the eight ball.

If you are reading this Hamish, please answer this for me: why spit at the cop? This guy would be out there protecting you if the glove was on the other hand — did he do anything to deserve the humiliation of being spat on by a loser such as yourself? For fuck's sake he is only doing his job and getting underpaid at that. Oh to be as tough as you Hamish, you were really flying the ANU flag high that day, especially after you had been arrested.

For all of the people who weren't at the police station afterwards, please be advised that our heroic ambassador Hamish 'the fuckwit' wasn't so tough, he cried and whimpered like a baby after he had been unloaded from the paddy wagon, he was crying out, in between sobs, that he was sorry and he just didn't know what had gotten over him — pathetic!

So next time you see Hamish walking around campus walk up to him and spit in his eye, cause he is the type of moron that gives us all a bad name. Also *Woroni* lift your game and stop giving embarrassments such as Hamish any coverage, incidents such as this reflect badly on us all.

—DB

Letters continued on page 8

You can write to *Woroni* c/- ANU Students' Association or email us on [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au). Even better is if you put your letter onto a disc and drop it into the office. Please keep letters under 300 words. Thanks.

## Sexuality dept moves with the 90s

Dear *Woroni*,  
Congratulations to the Sexuality Dept for their record breaking attendance of fifteen at their recent meeting held to elect new officers, following the resignation of Mark-Leon Thorne. This is an indication of the importance and interest in selecting the right people for the positions.

The success of the Sexuality Dept relies on the service being focussed on the current needs of the students it represents. Constitutionally, these students include those identifying as non-heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans gendered, as well as those seeking more information, to help them examine their own sexual values or identity.

Although there has been some shift in community attitudes about non-heterosexuality, 'heterosexism', often subtle, still pervades. There is still a strong lean towards heterosexuality being viewed as the preferred lifestyle. "Heterosexuals are those fortunate individuals who can love their partner of choice freely, and without question." On the other hand, non-heterosexuals love their partner of choice with the risk of blatant prejudice, ostracism, intimidation, and violence, to name a few.

We need to move beyond anger, fear and tolerance, attitudes which continue to marginalise these individuals. I believe the new sexuality officers will challenge the previous attitudes, strategies and level of ideologies which have recently been

offered by the Sexuality Department.

- Some of these challenges include:
- Maintaining eligibility for people who identify as non-heterosexual, rather than heterosexualising the department. In the interests of equality, there is a need to provide specialised services for minority groups.
  - Existing in reality, by realising that having general services would imply that we lived in a perfect world. Eg: If it is "unjust" for the Sexuality Department to represent non-heterosexual students, is it also "unjust" to have a School of Art which only offers services to students interested in art? Should we consider one big uni course for all, so as to be fully integrated?
  - Rejecting 'tolerance' as the goal, and advocating absolute celebration of, and comfort with individual choice. 'Tolerance' clearly demonstrates a heterosexist attitude, "I don't mind if you are gay, but just don't be obvious about it, don't rub it in my face. It's okay, but it would be better if you weren't".
  - Using resources and time in a way that ensures quality rather than quantity. It is not a matter of how much time spent, but what you do with it. Being out there and visible will be a high priority.
  - Recognising the need to provide confidential services in the interest of protection and safety of service users at all times.
  - Recognising the role and limits of the department by referring counselling issues to appropriate profes-

sionals.

So, again congratulations to the new officers. Your enthusiasm and commitment is welcome, keep up the good work.

—A FRIEND OF DOROTHY

### Thanks to Mark

Dear *Woroni*,  
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark-Leon Thorne for his work at the Sexuality Department over the last six months. We would like to point out that Mark did indeed resign his position and did not seek to stand in the following election. We are saddened that his resignation has been a source of embitterment to him.

As the new Sexuality Officers at ANU, we look forward to working with all students, regardless of their sexuality.

—PIPPA WISCHER AND MATT SCHMIDT  
ANU SEXUALITY OFFICERS

### Jellybabies not connected to the SA

Dear *Woroni*,  
I am writing in response to Mark-Leon Thorne's letter "Empire building at the sexuality dept?" (*Woroni* 49/6). Matt Schmidt resigned as Vice-President of Jellybabies the day he was elected as the new Sexuality officer. Hence, Jellybabies has no connection to an office of the Students' Association.

—RODD MESSERT  
PRESIDENT, JELLYBABIES

*Do you want to quit smoking?*

**We'll pay  
75%**

of the costs of nicotine patches prescribed by  
the  
ANU Health Service.

*Pick up details from the ANU Union office or the Health Service.  
Get in quickly — this offer strictly limited.*

An ANU Union Initiative

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY UNION

**1997 ELECTION OF UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Valid nominations having been accepted, ballots will be held to decide the elections for the Union Board of Directors. The names of groups and candidate, in the order in which they will appear on the voting paper, are as follows:

**THREE (3) MEMBERS (Full Term)**

| It won't happen overnight but it will happen | Noise          | Smokers are Voters! | Ungrouped      |
|--|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| HAN, Linda                                   | JEFFERY, David | PROSSER, Nick       | DIXON, Tim     |
| CLARKE, Paul                                 | SAXON, Ethan   | WOOD, Jason         | Hull, Collette |
|  | Liu, Faye      | Van Akker, Briony   |                |

**ONE (1) MEMBER (Post Graduate Student or Academic Staff)**

GRIST, Peter Gerard

It won't happen overnight but it will happen

McEwen, Melissa

Polling will take place in the **Union Building**, 1st floor entrance from Monday, 25 August 1997 to Thursday, 28 August 1997 inclusive, between the hours of 10.00 am and 6.00 pm each day.

All annual, life and honorary life members are eligible to vote.

SHARON STACEY

Returning Officer

6 August 1997

Ph: 281 6440

## Smoking ban in unibar

by Felicity P. Mullens and Helen Drew

A proposal to ban smoking in the Union put forward by Union Board Director Patrick Mackerras has been passed by the Board by a narrow majority (5-4). At this stage the details of the implementation of the ban have not been finalised, but it is likely there will be a trial period commencing at the end of the year and continuing into early 1998.

The proposal was part of a broader package of anti-smoking measures put forward by Patrick Mackerras at the most recent Board meeting. The other measures, including a Union rebate for students on nicotine patches, and a ban on the sale of tobacco products in the Union were also passed. A measure to refuse support clubs and societies sponsored by tobacco companies, was the only proposal to be defeated.

Patrick Mackerras says his motivation to put forward the proposals was part of a broad idea to fix up tobacco policies at the ANU. He felt that the Union was doing wrong by

students by selling and advertising (at point of sale) tobacco products and not having any programs encouraging students to quit. "Basically I realised government legislation was never going to be strict enough to provide a healthy bar, so the Union needed to take things into its own hands, and that's what we did."

Mackerras is aware of possible financial repercussions for the Union but feels the health of students and staff is more important. He said whilst there was some evidence of loss of trade following the implementation of a ban on smoking in other circumstances, there was more positive evidence to suggest that after an initial slump many bar sales figures had returned to sustainable levels. Mackerras said the board realised "public health had to be [their] first priority", but they would have to "reconsider the idea if it destroys bar trade".

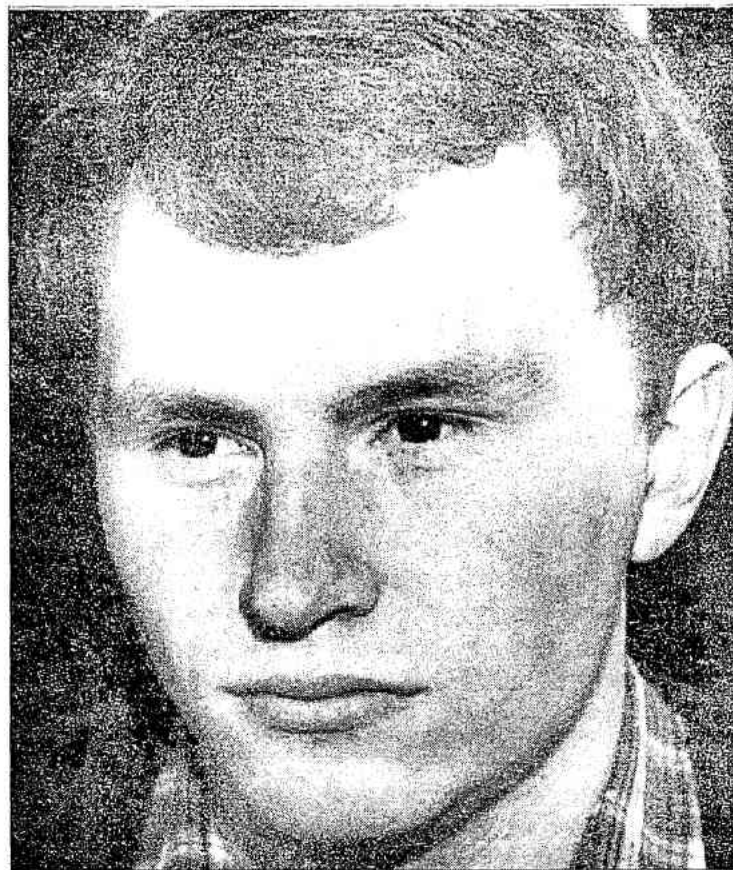
General Manager of the Union, Rod Thomas said similar bans have been implemented at UTS and Mac-

quarie University. UTS suffered a loss of 40% in clientele and sales. This figure has failed to improve even over the last three years. Macquarie initially suffered a 14% loss but regained its sales over the first year of the ban. ANU and UTS are both situated near urban centres where there are other bars which allow smoking, whereas Macquarie University is more isolated from competition.

These factors have been considered by the Board but they are confident that the consequences of a ban at ANU will not be as dramatic as those suffered by UTS. Rod Thomas is sure the calibre of the many bands the Uni bar hosts and the inexpensive prices charged to see them will continue to lure many people to the bar.

Mr Thomas also assures patrons and members of the Union that if there is a loss of revenue from a ban on smoking and cigarette sales in the Union it will not automatically lead to price rises.

He said that due to the extent of



(above) Patrick Mackerras "it's unfortunate smokers will be inconvenienced, but we didn't see why students should have to risk their health when using their own bar".

competition surrounding ANU any rise in prices would be detrimental to business. He was however, regret-

fully aware that any losses for the bar might lead to staff cuts to cover costs.

## LETTERS

### Filling Australia's political vacuum

Dear *Woroni*,  
Adele Tate (*Woroni* letters 49/6) offered a weak argument — she does not agree with what racists say yet will defend their right to say it. She believes the Students' Association's vote to ban any One Nation or like-minded group from forming on campus opposes lights to free speech and democracy.

The SA vote displays the fact that the majority of students actively oppose Hanson and her racist Party. Voters in favour of the blame did not show "the same bigotry and discrimination that Hanson herself displays". We simply used our right to free speech and democracy through debate and by voting. Hanson's "right" to racist speech provokes discrimination and racial hatred — it deprives individuals of the liberty they have fought hard for. Hence freedom is not defended by allowing free speech in every case. Would you grant free speech to a party of men campaigning for the right to rape women and children in the

streets? Nor should we grant free speech to those who incite the intimidation of Aborigines and Asians.

To oppose Hanson's freedom of speech does not suppress democracy. I believe in more democracy than exists at present. I believe in the democratic rights of immigrants and Aborigines. Hanson's arguments are not based on rational debate but race hatred.

Nature abhors a vacuum. Something will inevitably fill it. Luckily the majority of ANU students are not afraid to actively prevent Hanson filling Australia's political vacuum. You can't win a fight without meeting your opponent head on! It is not possible to fight racism without fighting Hanson. Don't just take the easy, passive path and shelter behind the free speech debate. Help combat racism by shutting "One Nation" meetings down without feeling guilty about harming free speech or democracy!

—SILVIA LIERTZ  
SOCIALIST STUDENT WORKER CLUB

### Arts cuts

The *Canberra Times* has released details of a report prepared by the ANU which recommends the cutting of over thirty academic and general staff positions in the Arts Faculty.

The report, which examines the costing and viability of several departments in the ANU Arts Faculty was tabled at the University Council meeting on August 7.

It names the Classics, History, Modern European Languages and Political Science Departments as those which are delivering budget short falls and have decreasing student enrolments. The report said the Arts Faculty would most likely finish this year with a deficit of \$3.161 million on top of previous shortfalls of \$732 000.

According to the *Canberra Times*, positions to be cut in the Faculty would be identified by mid-September. The paper quotes Doug Kelly, NTEU representative, as saying the redundancies would "wipe out about one person in six in the Faculty". The NTEU plans to hold a stop work meeting on August 12 to consider the proposals.

### Charles Sturt best uni

Charles Sturt University has been announced as the University of the Year in a speech given by Education Minister Amanda Vanstone to launch the Good Universities Guide on July 24.

Charles Sturt, which has campuses in Bathurst, Wagga and Albury was chosen as University of the Year because it is a University which takes on an important role in educating 'first generation' students, that is students who are the first in their family to attend university. Senator Vanstone said Charles Sturt was chosen because "it best exemplifies the role of universities in encouraging people from groups historically under-represented in universities to enter and succeed in higher education." She said the selection process focussed on the extent which the universities enrolled people from low socio-economic groups, indigenous, rural and isolated backgrounds, provided high quality teaching and student support and successfully prepared students for careers.

Senator Vanstone also took the

opportunity to announce two new Federal measures design to improve the quality of higher education. The first of these was the announcement of a national student survey "to gauge student's experiences and views of the quality of course content, teaching and student services at their university." The scheme will require undergraduates to fill in a survey and will also invite students to provide further comments in writing or through a telephone hotline. Senator Vanstone said in effect "the government is putting a stethoscope to the heartbeat of education".

Senator Vanstone also announced the introduction of a series of awards for university teaching supported by Federal funding of \$1.5 million. The awards, to be known as the Prime Minister's Awards for University Excellence in Teaching, would go to "the most talented and accomplished academic teachers in Australia". Vanstone said student input into the awards would not be "token" and their views would be a "vital part of the selection committee's considerations".

### Law curriculum changes on hold

The Law Faculty has announced it will not be implementing any changes to its curriculum in 1998. The changes, which would have seen a complete overhaul of subjects and course content, as well as a shift to a standard eight unit load in each year of the degree has been deemed "difficult, if not impossible" for the

Faculty to put in place by the start of the 1998 academic year.

Students will be able to choose elective units as normal at the end of this year which will be drawn from the existing set of elective units. Geraldine Chin, President of the Law Student's Society, said there will be no HECS increases for any

students in 1998, even though projected increases in HECS prompted the evaluation of the Law curriculum. The Faculty is currently considering whether to bring the changes in in 1999. Geraldine Chin said students will be updated on information about the curriculum review as it becomes available.

### Chifley shelves compactus

Chifley Library has changed the set up of its basement shelving in response to recent complaints.

English literature books were originally shelved on a compactus which led to concerns expressed by the English Department about the safety of browsers and access by staff and students to the books.

Staff have moved hundreds of books so they are now on free standing shelves. A portion remain in compactus shelving, including part of the American literature collection. Margaret Henty, manager of humanities at Chifley emphasises the compactus is working and there are no risks in using it.



## The tyranny of the TER

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Amanda Vanstone has signalled an end to the "tyranny of the TER".

In a speech to the Sydney Institute on August 5, Senator Vanstone said the TER was "an elitist relic of the past" and pledged \$1 million in Federal funds to develop new approaches to university entry. Senator Vanstone said the "concept of a single index of academic merit that ranks applicants to an accuracy of two decimal places is fundamentally flawed."

Senator Vanstone made a strong case against the TER system saying it is biased along class, regional and possibly gender lines. She said the TER favours people from higher socio-economic groups, particularly those who attend private schools over government schools.

Vanstone said there is also evidence the TER is not gender neutral. She cited the difference in male and female average in NSW in 1996 in support of this point — the average result for males was substantially lower than those for females. Vanstone also drew attention to how students from rural high schools

were being disadvantaged in TER assessment.

Senator Vanstone said she was particularly interested in universities using the Federal funding to pilot schemes for assessing acceptance to university for those from "low socio-economic groups who will not get good TERs, but who do have good potential to succeed at university". Vanstone said whilst she has often been portrayed as wanting to limit access to university to the rich nothing could be further from the truth — "I am committed to increasing access to university for people from low socio-economic groups — the people who failed to benefit from the expansion of higher education over the last decade".

Shadow Education Minister Mark Latham has criticised Senator Vanstone's attack on the TER and endorsed the current system of assessment. He said Vanstone's policy was inconsistent with the Government's limitation of access to education through the introduction of up front fees and represented a misguided attempt by Vanstone to "soften her image in the eyes of students".



(above) Lions Oratory competition finalist Andrew Battison, poses with his participation certificate and Vice Chancellor, Professor Deane Terrell

## Lions oratory goes off

The third annual Lions Club Oratory competition was held at ANU on August 6. Eight students presented speeches on people who they thought demonstrated the great human values of truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence.

The finalists ranged from St Francis of Assisi to Albert Einstein in their examination of great men and women of history. The winner and recipient of one thousand dollars in prize money was Belinda Hollway. Belinda spoke on the life and work of Caroline Chisholm, a

woman who worked with newly arrived emigrant women in the colony of NSW in the mid 1800s. Jennifer Thompson who was placed second spoke about Nelson Mandela and third placed Nicholas Wood examined the work and values of Australian philosopher and animal rights campaigner Peter Singer.

Vice Chancellor Deane Terrell, who presented the prizes thanked the Lions Club for sponsoring the competition and remarked on the improvement in the standard of competition since its inauguration.

## Lennox House residents move to John XXIII

ANU students living in Lennox House on Acton Peninsula have been forced to a new temporary home following the ACT Government's decision to declare a 400 metre exclusion zone around the site of the Old Canberra Hospital. The exclusion zone was declared after the failed hospital implosion in July to ensure the safety of those in the surrounding area from the possibility of ordinances exploding in the remains of the building.

ANU Pro-vice Chancellor Chris Burgess (Finance) said the 17 students who were living in Lennox House have been moved into rooms at John XXIII College. He said that whilst there appeared to be a small chance that residents were actually in jeopardy from explosions from the building it was deemed safest to comply with the exclusion zone. Students are likely to be housed at Johns until August 13 or 20. Chris

Burgess said the upgrade in accommodation had not cost the students any extra rent since the arrangement was purely one between the University and the ACT government.

The temporary closure of Lennox House has also affected 20 Institute of the Arts students who use the premises to work in. They have been relocated to one of the Childers St buildings until the exclusion zone is lifted.

Whilst a formal exclusion zone has been declared the University remains concerned about the ACT Government's efforts in implementing it. Chris Burgess said that currently it is very easy to enter the zone on foot. He said that the University wished to see people properly excluded from the zone, which had been declared in the interests of safety.

## ALSA success for ANU

ANU Law Students Association President Geraldine Chin has been elected Australasian Law Students Association (ALSA) President at the recent ALSA conference held in Brisbane at Griffith University over the semester break. ALSA, which has a membership of thirty one universities from Australian and New Zealand is the peak group for Law students throughout the region. Geraldine Chin, who has been elected for a twelve month term, said "ALSA has real potential to do more for students

at a grass roots level, and this is one of the things I'll be pursuing".

ANU students competed in two of the competitions for law students held at the conference. Tonya Riszko represented ANU in the witness examination competition and Ben O'Donnell, Edward Cole and Douglas Guilfoyle in the mooted competition. The mooted team reached the semi-finals, and were defeated by the eventual winners of the competition, the Victoria University of Wellington.

## Archaeology and Natural History research cut

The severe effect on the ANU of Federal Government budget cuts has become clear after a recent announcement that the Division of Archaeology and Natural History, in ANU's Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, would be virtually closed.

The decision, announced by Vice-chancellor Deane Terrell at a recent ANU Council meeting, is in response to cuts amounting to a 14 per cent reduction in funding for the university over the next three years. At the meeting, the Vice-chancellor tabled a written response to the numerous complaints made concerning the Division's closure. "The University faces a severe financial crisis," wrote Terrell, "a crisis which for some areas has gone beyond being dealt with by cuts across the board and can only be dealt with by drastic vertical cuts."

"Beyond a point horizontal cuts will reduce a number of excellent areas to non-viability..."

The decision has been condemned in the press and writers

have called the move "an act of philistinism" that has "provoked world-wide condemnation"

The Division, considered one of the leading teams in world concerning the prehistory and environmental records of Asia, Australia, New Guinea and Melanesia, will be reduced from 16 full-time staff to three.

Professor Terrell is adamant the most severe cuts at the ANU have been restricted to administration and organisational areas, to protect research and teaching. The entire Tertiary education sector, however, was currently under "extreme pressure" and cuts to other areas are becoming increasingly necessary.

In an effort to preserve the ANU's international reputation in several areas, other sections will be severely hit. "For that one reason [preservation of reputation] when we make the cuts we won't necessarily make them to every area," said Professor Terrell, "but [we will] make the hard decision in one or more areas."

—MICHAEL COOK

## bits in brief

### Eastern Conference Games

ANU achieved some excellent results at the recent Eastern Conference Games held over the semester break in Bathurst. Teams competed in intervarsity competitions in AFL, basketball, hockey, netball, soccer, volleyball, softball, tennis and touch football. ANU won the women's basketball and men's hockey competition and both the men's and women's volleyball. It was the fourth consecutive time the women's basketball team has won. Other teams to do well were the AFL team who came third and the men's soccer team who came fourth. The successful teams will go on to compete at the National University Games to be held in Melbourne in the next teaching break.

### Co-op bookshop — a classy act

The ANU Co-op Bookshop has won a national award for outstanding service to the book industry. The Thorpe 1997 Tertiary Bookseller of the Year Award was awarded to the ANU Co-op at the Australian Awards for excellence in Educational Publishing in Sydney recently. The Chief Executive Officer of the University Co-operative Bookshop, Duncan Maclellan, who accepted the award said the ANU manager, Lisa Hungsberg and her staff were deserving winners. "The Co-op Bookshop at ANU has been extensively refurbished, carries a wonderful range and is very well managed with excellent staff" he said.

### Weird Library Facts #17

Did you know that apart from boasting tricky doors and very large books Chifley library is possessed of one of the world's largest collections of Icelandic literature? That there is a private study room in a dark corner with almost no windows where you could get up to just about anything? (Picking up a key at the front desk feels eerily like checking into a sordid motel, even if you are only studying your Icelandic). That even though the Library has lots of handy slots for \$1 and \$2 coins there is no change machine? There is a theory Chifley is actually in league with the Acton Supermarket — when hapless students go there for change they just can't help buying a killer python, a giant freckle or a red frog.

### Woroni makes a new friend

A woman came into the Students Association last week and requested ten copies of the July *Woroni* so she could distribute the excellent article on sperm donation to her friends. Stunned *Woroni* staff handed over multiple copies. It turned out the woman was the author, Jason Richardson's mum.

# Woroni



## student comment

Siobhan McDonnell

### Is feminism relevant?

I want to be a Feminist but I shave my legs, like men and don't understand "The Beauty Myth".

While these statements are easily addressed by a feminist movement that dictates principles in terms of equality and choice, perhaps the most fundamental question facing the feminist movement today is whether feminism is really necessary.

Young women are viewing feminism as the "F" word and are either repulsed by stereotypical images of feminists (as hairy legged lesbians), or, worse still, view the term as being obsolete "Why would I call myself a Feminist when I already have equality?" It is possible that this response isn't as devastating to the Feminist movement as it sounds, after all isn't the Feminist movement's greatest achievement the fact that young women don't feel the need to organise under the Feminist banner?

Clearly this argument would only be true if women had achieved equality — so, have women in the 90s achieved equality?

The resounding answer to this question is NO.

Women are still paid less than

men, women are still the predominant primary care givers in a family, women, despite performing in education to a higher degree than ever before, are still not entering the upper strata of the workforce and women are still make up the majority of victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment.

If this is equality then it's not the kind of equality that I'm happy with.

"Young women are viewing feminism as the "F" word and are either repulsed by stereotypical images of feminists as hairy legged lesbians, or, worse still, view the term as being obsolete"

OK, you might be saying, but I have equality. I'm a uni student and as long as I get good marks I'll do fine. You may feel that your gender has never really had an impact on your life, that's great, but take a step back and ask yourself a couple of questions.

You know of the increase to HECS, so who do these increases really affect? The answer is that they affect women and other disadvantaged

groups. Less women will be able to attend University as a result of the increases in fees.

Here's another question, what's the University's policy in relation to parents? Is there a policy that says that pregnancy is a sufficient reason for not sitting an exam? The answer to both these questions is no.

Next, why aren't there tampon vending machines in the women's toilets? And why is the liquid that they use in pad advertisements always blue?

I don't really know the answer to these questions other than to state that women's period blood is often viewed as messy and distasteful, something that's better left as "women's business".

The point that I'm really trying to get across here is that the important thing is to ask these questions, not just to accept what the university, society or the government dictates the role of women to be. If you don't think there's equality then get up and say so. Above all, subvert the stereotype by not being afraid to use the F word.

Siobhan is the Law Students Society Women's Officer

## sexuality department

### Visibility

Hello one and all. First up we want to tell you more about the Queer Collaborations 1997 conference in Brisbane last month, focusing on two of the actions that we partook in.

The first was a protest in Pine Rivers Shire, where the mayor, Yvonne Chapman, had decided that in order to keep those 'damned homosexuals' out, she had to remove all the toilet doors from male toilets in her little backward shire. She also asked all homosexuals travelling through not to stop in "her" town, so we as a conference group went for a picnic in one of her parks.

The Christian hecklers that were there to greet us Dykes, Fags, Bis, and Trannies, if nothing else, at least took one message away with them: we're here, we're queer, and we're not going away, even if we can't shit in peace.

"In order to make society aware of our rights, needs, and the fact we do not need to hide our identities any longer, we have to make ourselves visible"

The other action we took part in was a simple one: a kiss-in in Queen Street Mall. About a hundred and fifty of us took to the centre of Brisbane and snogged — something which many queers unfortunately are still afraid of doing in public. Both of these events created *visibility* — something that is so important to the queer community as a whole.

In order to make society aware of our rights and needs, and the simple fact that we do not need to nor will hide our identities any longer, we have to make ourselves visible. We have to let everyone know we will no longer put up with being verbally, physically and sexually harassed. We just won't stand for it.

Part of creating visibility around Canberra, specifically Canberra campuses, is the recent co-operation of the ANU and CIT Sexuality Departments, the Rubber Rose Ranch/UCAN and other fabulous individuals. Regular meetings have been set up to work on common goals, and help each other out.

The first action was the Queer Market Daze at UCAN on July 30. Pippa and Rodd were among the speakers on the day, which was in response to the hostile and homophobic environment that currently is UCAN.

Thanks to Kelly Jones, who was the main organiser of the day, and did a great job. This event was written up in the Canberra Times two days in a row, and made WIN news as well! Many more actions involving the various institution's reps are planned for the future — *action* being another operative word. We need to be active and do something to change this world.

—MATT AND PIPPA

### on campus

Woroni asked people in Union Court these questions. (1) What do you think about the ban on smoking in the Uni Bar? (2) What do you think the steel structure outside Calypso's is? (3) Do you support the NTEU strikes this week?



- (1) I don't care — I don't go to the Uni Bar
- (2) A giant kebab and roast chicken cooking machine
- (3) Yes — because if they don't fight it now it won't ever be fought —Dane (Asian Studies)



- (1) It doesn't bother me — I don't smoke — but it's nice to go out and not come back smelling of smoke.
- (2) It's pretty ugly — maybe they'll put perspex on top of it. Even then it will still be quite horrible
- (3) Yes — because because staff cuts affect students —Nicky (SREM)



- (1) I think we should be able to smoke in the uni bar
- (2) It's pretty ugly whatever it is
- (3) I haven't really given it a great deal of thought, there's too much else on in my life —Joanne (Arts)



- (1) I agree with the ban, non-smokers use the the bar as well and smoking could affect their health
- (2) Its a roof top, but I prefer an open area
- (3) Yes — we need more staff, why do they keep cutting people? —Lisa (Eco/ Com)

## Need a place to live?

### Housing Online

- A list of accommodation from the private rental market, updated weekly by the ANU Housing Referral Service on the World Wide Web (accessible from the ANU Home Page) at <http://www.anu.edu.au/admin/housing/accom.html>.
- Lists landlords' properties if they are available to students and one bus ride from ANU.
- Also includes sections for share accommodation wanted and available.

### Housing Referral Service

- Acts as a broker to assist students and staff to find private rental accommodation.
- Apply to the service and receive free advice and assistance negotiating with landlords and real estate agents.

### Contact Details

Contact the Housing Referral Service by phone on 243 3185 (73 185 internal), fax on 249 0737 (0737 internal), or by email to [accom.referral@anu.edu.au](mailto:accom.referral@anu.edu.au).

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political  
corner

the issue

## The stolen generation

The issue of whether the government should compensate the 'Stolen Generation' should not be treated with the hesitancy and trepidation demonstrated by governments, community groups and the media. The deeds of the past were wrong and thus Australia should compensate those victims.

The past cannot be swept aside simply as an aberration. Australia must move forward as a nation; assume a position of international standing; shake off the slur of Hanson's rhetoric. Before this can happen, the government must recognise the injustices of the past. Australia cannot move towards the future while a significant group in the community either feels neglected or is suffering from previous actions. Surely Australia does not want to alienate further an already bitter and disillusioned group of people?

The question of whether compensation should be granted to those Aborigines taken from their families should not be linked so intrinsically with money. The issue is far too important to be neglected because of financial and legal inadequacies. A government's job is not simply to manage the economy; a successful government first manages people. By neglecting to deal with the 'Stolen Generation' this Federal Government is proving its inability to govern in a socially acceptable manner. It seems to think that bringing down a balanced budget is its only responsibility.

Compensation to the indigenous population would be a symbol of Australia's ability to reconcile its past and assume a mature role in both domestic and international affairs.

Obviously compensation to just one group of Aborigines is not the final solution to the many problems that they face. However, it would be a sign that finally Australians are recognising past injustices. Without this sort of apology, a new generation of indigenous Australians will be raised into a bitter struggle, accentuating the existing differences between 'white' and 'black' Australians.

Non-indigenous Australians must change the feeling of ambivalence to the plight of Aborigines and the 'Stolen Generation'. Too many people continually assert that the current problems were caused by past generations and therefore, responsibility should not be assumed by current generations. This excuse is almost an acceptance that past actions were not wrong or should not have an impact on today's society. Unfortunately, they were wrong and continue to have an impact today.

Governments must ignore the economic logistics of providing compensation for the 'Stolen Generation'. It is time that Australia reconciles itself with its past.

—CARL STEWART  
ALP CLUB

Why would anyone steal an Aborigine? It doesn't add up. The government of the day wasn't thinking "How else can we fuck up the bastards?", but rather how could they best help Aborigines to succeed in Australian society. All the social welfare groups and the churches sponsored the previous policies; and again, it wasn't done so that the churches would have more little kiddies to choose from, well I hope. And although the members separated from families may have felt some pain and loss, many now are prosperous Australians. Even the High Court, that den of trendy feel-good political correctness, couldn't invent reasons as to how the past generations' actions could be unconstitutional.

There are also the practical reasons as to why every Aboriginal disconnected from their family should not automatically be given cash compensation. How much, and to whom? How would such a thing be decided? There were different circumstances in each instance. It isn't practicable. Saying there should be no blanket compensation does not rule out individual cases where an orphanage did not fulfil its duty of care to the wards, or cases of negligence. These are put through the normal law-courts, like every other case of injustice which happens to any other Australian. Why should there be yet another special scheme for Aboriginal people, when others going through the same suffering must use the courts?

And then there is Labor's opportunism in championing the separated peoples' cause, now they aren't the government. Kim Beazley can bawl his eyes out until the cows come home, but it doesn't change the fact that the previous Labor government, of which he was Deputy Prime Minister, also denied any liability or compensation. When you see Labor students gaining mileage out of this cause, stop and think; if they hadn't been thrashed in the last election Keating and Beazley would be saying exactly the same things as the Coalition is now.

It wasn't just Aborigines who were separated from their families. The circumstances suffered by all young people who were transported to Australian orphanages after World War II, or for those non-aboriginals who were taken from single mothers, rate equally with the suffering of Aboriginal people who were placed in mission orphanages. No one has denied that any of this did happen, and we didn't need a 2 kilogram one-sided report to tell us what occurred just to Aboriginal children.

No one has yet shown me proof of why a special treatment of compensation is needed, nor any evidence that what previous generations did was well-intentioned (albeit perhaps misguided).

—TIM DIXON  
NATIONAL CLUB

Students' Association

## president's report

matt tinning  
sa president



## Bush week

Third term at the ANU is always filled with interest, and this year will be no exception.

### Bush Week

Traditionally Bush Week at the ANU is O-Week all over again. In recent years Bush Week has been more subdued, but an enjoyable affair none the less. This year, Bush Week '97 offers every student the opportunity to achieve instant fame, notoriety, and insobriety through any number of excitement-filled events. Run the gauntlet of the upholders of law and order in Canberra to claim one of the great prizes on offer in the Scavenger Hunt; test your general knowledge at the Clubs & Societies trivia night; join in the events various clubs are arranging throughout the week; be there for Funky Acid Afro Lounge on Wednesday night, and of course the Bar Slug on Thursday night. For full details check out the Bush Week programme on poster boards everywhere.

### Elections

It's that time of year again, with the Union Board elections coming up in the next couple of weeks, and the Students' Association elections taking place in the last week of term. Nominations for the SA close on 1 September, and under the new Constitution, various positions are up for election for the first time. I encourage everyone to consider running for election, particularly if you have not traditionally been politically active, or have not been a member of any political party. If you are interested in playing a part in the promotion of social life on campus, representing students on University Committees, or the fight for accessible education on a national level, consider nominating for a position that sounds right for you. If you'd like more information about what would be involved, please feel free to drop in and see me at the Students' Association office. You've probably also noticed over the past few weeks a gradual escalation in propaganda circulating regarding the National Union of Students. NUS is the peak body representing Australian university students, and plays an important part in opposing deregulation of the higher education sector and the introduction of user-pays. Some groups, however, object to the cost of NUS membership (for the ANU around \$30,000 per annum), and to the factional system which operates within NUS. There is currently a petition circulating to initiate a referendum on the question of NUS membership. I encourage everyone to spend some time getting informed about NUS before deciding whether to sign this petition, and also how to vote in any subsequent referendum. It is a complicated issue, and debate over affiliation is often marked by inaccuracies and mistruths.

### Redundancies

The consequences of the government's cuts to higher education are beginning to hit home at the ANU, with the Department of Archeology of Natural History in RSPAS being dismantled, and now specific cuts to the Faculty of Arts being unveiled. It is still unclear exactly where the axe will ultimately fall, but somewhere in the order of 19 involuntary redundancies and 14 non-renewals are currently being proposed. Cuts of such ferocity would be unlikely to be achievable without the closure of at least one department, and without every department in the Faculty losing posts. The SA is encouraging the University to consider alternatives to these drastic measures, and the NTEU has already commenced industrial action. The rolling strikes called during week 3 are unlikely to be the last, and potentially students will be inconvenienced by further stoppages. It is, however, important to be aware that if the down-sizing proposed in the Faculty of Arts does go ahead, it is likely to have a very significant impact on the range of courses and units offered to Arts students, the quality of teaching, the frequency of tutorials and the number of students who will be accepted to study honours. The stakes are very high for students as well as staff.

## general secretary's report

Many thanks to everyone who took an interest in the new Constitution which was passed on Monday the 28th. Hopefully future SAs will benefit from the changes. A few changes still need to be tidied up at the next General Meeting on August 15.

In a recent SRC meeting, representatives voted for the Association to switch to using recycled paper. They also discussed the complexities of the Course Restructuring proposed by the University. This proposal could have serious effects on Austudy payments, HECS payments and the design of courses — if anyone wants more details, come into the SA and get a copy of Matt's paper to the Board of the Faculties.

The SRC is planning various activities to coincide with the NUS Week of Action and the NTEU Strikes in week 5 (Bush Week). Staff cuts are looming as a big issue on campus so if anyone wants to help in the campaign, drop by the SA sometime.

—HARRY GREENWELL

# reports

# Woroni

## debate

### Should smoking be banned in the uni bar?

Old foes Patrick Mackerras and Vinegar Tits take each other on once again in the neverending contest of good and evil that is the Woroni page 12 debate. This month they argue over the ban on smoking in the Uni bar which was proposed by Mackerras and is scorned by Tits.

The question of whether smoking should be permitted in the bar is a difficult one. The concerns of smokers are understandable — if it weren't for the harm caused by passive smoking, they would have every right to smoke wherever they want. The concerns of non-smokers are understandable too — if it weren't for the inconvenience caused to smokers, the Board's decision to make the bar smoke-free would be the best one it ever made. And then there's the complicating factor of money — the Union can't impose a smoking ban if it destroys the bar's trade.

These were the competing interests which the Board, at its meeting on the 22nd of July, needed to mould into a policy that made ethical, legal and financial sense.

Interviewed on Win News recently, a smoker said "When people come into the bar they expect to smoke, and non-smokers just have to put up with that". The problem is that for every smoker who thinks that, you can find a non-smoker who thinks "When I go into my bar I expect not to risk my health, and smokers just have to put up with that".

So the Board was looking at a situation where the rights of smokers and non-smokers couldn't co-exist (by the way, all recent health reports have recognised that ventilation systems are completely ineffective in keeping dangerous smoke out of non-smoking areas), and it reluctantly decided (the vote was close) to resolve this conflict in favour of public health. This was probably because it realised that this "conflict of rights" was not really a conflict at all — there is no such thing as a right to damage the health of other people.

Of course the response to this is "non-smokers get to enjoy clean air everywhere else at ANU, all we smokers want is one bar". But can't my friend who likes to drive at 150 km/h between Sydney and Melbourne say the same thing? — "People who want safe roads can drive anywhere else in Australia. All I ask is the Hume Highway". Both arguments just don't stack up — for the same reason. The bar is not a private venue, it belongs to all students. None of them should be forced to risk their health when using it. And the fact that (allegedly) some students have "accepted that risk" doesn't mean that everyone should have to do the same.

Legally, there was simply no other option for the Board. The Union has a duty of care to its staff to provide a safe environment, and a smoking bar just isn't safe. Over 57 000 scientific articles now exist

establishing a link between active smoking and disease, but long before the 57000th, evidence was strong enough for governments to start treating smoking as a serious public health issue. Similarly, the Board knew that evidence was strong enough for organisations to cease denying the links between passive smoking and disease. It also knew that a staff member dying of say, lung cancer, could sue us, that in court we wouldn't have a leg to stand on, and that such litigation had already been undertaken successfully against employers in NSW.

Furthermore, it is completely unreasonable to expect the Union to get around these problems by employing only smokers on its bar staff. Aside from being blatantly discriminatory, such a policy would mean loyal, long serving employees wishing to quit smoking would be forced to choose between their

health and their job. Well that's just obscene — for absolutely no good reason the Union would be actively undermining the health of its staff.

Finally, and most obviously, the Board had to consider the financial impact of the ban. I had contacted managers of other bars in Sydney and Canberra and had received a mixed response. One said we wouldn't lose any sales at all. A few more said that sales would go down. But none thought that the Union would be ruined by this decision.

On the basis of this and other evidence the Board decided to give the ban a go. The implementation date has not yet been finalised, but the ban will probably start in December as part of a six month trial period. If it turns out to be a financial disaster during this period, the Board will obviously discontinue it. But I'm confident the decision will attract even more people to the Union.

The Union Board Elections are coming up, and will probably be fought partly on this issue. There is even a ticket campaigning on a promise to end the smoking ban. But my guess is that as soon as they get on the Board they'll recognise the Union's legal obligations and come to their senses.

But if legal arguments mean nothing to them, they'll see the health benefits of the ban when, inevitably, one of their friends develops lung cancer. 50% of people who smoke and who don't give up will die of it; 25% by middle age. Without statistics like these, the Board's decision would have been simple. Unfortunately, it wasn't.

—PATRICK MACKERRAS

The fact that Patrick Mackerras, of all people, wants to ban smoking in the Uni Bar, is an irony that has not gone completely unnoticed amongst the majority of the student body. Why so? Because Patrick is the kind of guy who only sets foot in the bar to give the toilet seats a good scrub because he couldn't bear the thought that such unhygienic equipment was being utilised by his constituents.

Well thanks very much pal but I can really do without a tee-totalling, debating society nerd herder being concerned that I might expire in a 150 years from the effects of passive smoking. Picture the image if you will... Patrick Mackerras approaches a huddled group of smokers engaged in an animated conversation "Picasso, Jean-Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett, sorry fellas it's out into the freezing cold evening for you. You can discuss the intellectual future of the Twentieth Century on your own time please, because, whilst we all greatly appreciate

your contribution, as avid smokers you'll just have to be doing that sort of thing alone in the privacy of your own home. And you can stop pointing your smouldering cancer stick at me Winston Churchill, I've learnt not to wear those flammable nylon jumpers anymore."

Just where does this guy and his tossy policies get off? Why do we even have student politicians? It seems like a great training ground to become a chief parking inspector or maybe a Seventh Day Adventist doorknocker, but what about the bigger issues? Because whilst they preoccupy themselves with this trivial crap... well actually... now that I think about it, occupying themselves with trivial crap is all they ever actually seem to do — and thus is explained the need for this new policy. Off goes a little light bulb in the tiny brain of the student politician, like Tonia Toddman after she's just spied a particularly nice piece of wicker basketry, but instead of crying "That's it! Delightful patio furniture!" their preferred declamation is "I know! No smoking in the Uni Bar!"

For what reason other than self-agrandisement would anyone ban smoking in a bar? Hellooooo! It's a bar. You know, a place where people go and do despicable things that are bad for them. Banning smoking in a bar is like buying a porno only to discover all the genitalia's been rubbed out in black text. Cigarette smoke is all part of the bar experience and I think anyone who actually goes to the Uni Bar of their volition is entirely prepared for that. They must be. You have to

drink so much in order to forget how ugly your surroundings are the health effects of cigarette smoke would pale in comparison when compared to the damage you're doing to every internal organ except your lungs.

But actually I've just had a rather good idea myself Pat, why don't we start to regulate against passive drinking? I can see it all now. You can lead a team of people who can take turns patrolling the bar like school library monitors. You'll be allowed to wear a special tie and a badge and wander around saying, "I'm sorry but I can't allow you to buy this person a drink. The peer pressure you are imposing upon them to have a good time could do untold damage to their liver. I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to leave or go outside and join the irresponsible people in the beer garden of shame." Honest to God, it makes

me wonder what is going through the brain of someone who could one month be wanting to ban Nestle products because of their role in third world starvation and then, a couple of weeks later, get all flustered about the thought that some precious little first year might inhale the equivalent of an ordinary day's air pollution in Sydney.

In a further display of his lack of understanding of the role played by smoking in the Uni Bar, Mackerras has forgotten the part played by cigarette smoke as air freshener. Have you ever smelt the Uni Bar, empty, before the smokers have moved in? As hauntingly refreshing as the stench of vomit, carpet cleaner and stale urine are, somehow the reassuring muster of a pack of Winni Reds seems to me to just have an edge that brings me back every time.

Apart from obvious stuff like the loss of business caused by making the Uni Bar non-smoking, the thing that really pisses me off is Mackerras seems to think his couple of years as a student politician have qualified him to make judgements that ride above what is currently legally required! Pat has now decided he is in a better position to be making decisions about our livelihood than professional politicians. Well I've had it! I propose that we stage a "smoke-in" the day before the proposal is due to implimented because I for one, as a non-smoker, will be there with bells on, protesting not just a right to smoke in a god-damn bar but our right not to be interfered with anymore by self-created petty officialdom. And that means you Patrick Mackerras!

—VINEGAR TITS

Politicians are running scared,

TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY AND THROUGHOUT THE NATION

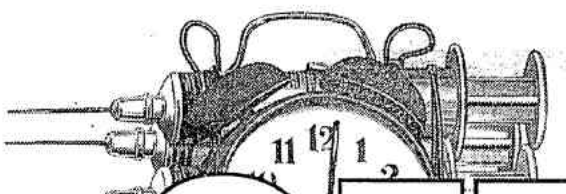
PRESSURE BUILDS FOR LAW REFORM

# THE DRUG TIME BOMB

An increasing number of leading citizens — five MPs among them — believe the war on drugs can't be won without dramatic change in tactics



Amanda Moade



# 'Drugs war being lost'

# Rethink on drugs policy

# GETTING IT RIGHT

## Why we should fix on our heroin policy

Australia is poised to take another look at the heroin problem. But we need to make sure that the decisions involve the broader community in a more informed way



Matt Gaughwin

**A** CENTRAL argument of the book by John Ralston Saul, *The Uncertain Advantage*, is that legitimacy lies with interest groups, and that decisions are made through constant negotiation between groups. This is the case for drug law reform. Of all the drugs, heroin causes the most problems for society. The proposed trial of heroin is one way of dealing with these problems, but it is not yet firmly grounded in a public health approach of heroin use because of the limited scope of the trial.

# PROBATION

That won't happen for a long time. It will be a long time before the trial is fully implemented. The trial will be a long time before the trial is fully implemented. The trial will be a long time before the trial is fully implemented. The trial will be a long time before the trial is fully implemented.

They were heading for a sewage drug dealer operating from a shopping centre car park — the same dealer who had just sold to a young mother. "I knew it happened but I've never been exposed to it in such a blatant way," Dr Woollard said.

"Some of the politicians need to get down to the streets and see what's happening," Dr Woollard said. "You can't just treat it as just some abstract argument about ethics or morals."

"Cabramatta is a symptom of a national problem. Nothing had prepared Woollard for what he saw on Friday. Stating in the court that he was a former AMA president, Brennan Nelson said Cabramatta visit. "I've only been to Cabramatta a few times."



The first stage of the ACT initiated heroin trial is finally going ahead. After months of controversy and debate in the media and in the wider community, the first stage of the trial looks set to usher in yet another round of criticism and response. Why has there been such a reaction against something which is, in effect, simply a form of medical treatment? *Woroni* correspondent ANDREW DEMPSTER looks at the procedure surrounding the trial and the arguments for and against its implementation.

Earlier this year, a dramatic photo appeared in a Sydney tabloid newspaper. It depicted a young mother, slumped unconscious on a Cabramatta footpath under the influence of heroin, while her three-year old child played beside her. To many people, this startling abandonment of parenthood for the temporary pleasure of a chemically-created euphoria was proof of heroin's inherent evil. It was a shocking juxtaposition of vice with innocence which demonstrated the need for stricter drug laws.

But the same picture also revealed, in an equally shocking way, the extent to which our current approach to dealing with the problems created by drug use has failed. It has failed Australia in the same way, only perhaps not yet to the same degree, that it has failed the United States, where smart investors are putting their money into building bigger jails. It would be difficult to come up with a single example of another policy which has been pursued for so long and yet failed so dismally. Not only does prohibition fail to prevent harm, it actually creates it. It endangers lives by exposing people to widely-available drugs of uncertain quality and by compelling them to use unsafe methods of administration, primarily injection, to get the biggest bang for their buck. It imprisons people whose 'crimes' are victimless. It corrupts police. And it turns many dependent users to crime to finance the habit, for which we all pay the price.

It is extraordinary, then, that such a modest step forward as the proposed heroin trial has engendered the controversy that it has.

This trial is not about supplying 'free' heroin to anybody who wants it, an emotional simplification that opponents of the trial have used, with some success, to whip up opposition. It is about investigating the efficacy of providing controlled amounts of pharmaceutical grade heroin, under clinical supervision, to those people who are already dependent on the drug, and who would otherwise obtain the drug illegally with all the health risks which that entails.

Progress towards the trial has been slow and cautious. In 1991, ANU's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Criminology, was asked to consider whether a carefully controlled and rigorously evaluated trial should be conducted to determine whether prescription of pharmaceutical heroin would be a useful addition to current maintenance treatment for dependent heroin users. After four years of painstaking research, NCEPH recommended that the trial should proceed.

In response, the ACT government convened a task force in mid-1995 to consider this recommendation and undertake public consultation on the issue. Consisting of 29 members representing medical, legal, government, community and law enforcement organisations, the task force delivered its report last January. After six months of investigation and consultation, the task force was almost unanimous in supporting the trial, the only person to disagree being the representative from the Australian Federal Police.

The trial, if it proceeds to its full length, will take place in three stages. In the first six-month stage, there will be 40 participants. If, after the results from the first stage are evaluated, it is decided to proceed, there will be 250 participants in the second stage. Finally, if these trials together produce positive outcomes, a full-scale two-year trial is proposed to be conducted in three Australian capital cities.

To deal with the public perception that the establishment of a trial in Canberra would attract drug users from other states, all trial participants must have been resident in the ACT since 1992. They will be required to surrender their driving licences for the duration of the trial and to pay a weekly charge of \$15 to \$20.

Presently, the Victorian government has indicated that it will support the crucial third stage. However, the support of the New South Wales government is crucial to the viability of the trial. As somebody put it, holding a heroin

**"As a pharmacist, I have had many years of experience in seeing the effects of heroin usage at first hand. I have seen from close up the success and failure of methadone, the success and failure of users going 'cold turkey.' My experience as a health professional has made me realise that we are not winning the war on drugs and our current approaches are not working."**

— KATE CARNELL, ACT CHIEF MINISTER

# PRESSURE BUILDS FOR LAW REFORM DRUG TIME BOMB

trial without Sydney would be like throwing a Canberra Grammar School party without a Doors album. The Premier of New South Wales, Bob Carr is still sniffing the breeze, which is what he does best, with one eye planted firmly on his flimsy three-seat Parliamentary majority. In a tragic irony, Carr lost his brother to a heroin overdose but can't bring himself to declare his support for the trial. Carnell too has a personal — and at the same time professional — perspective on the issue, one which has convinced her that heroin is a serious enough health issue for her to put her neck on the line by vigorously supporting the trial in the face of scepticism from within her own party.

"As a pharmacist, I have had many years of experience in seeing the effects of heroin usage at first hand," she says. "I have seen from close up the success and failure of methadone, the success and failure of users going 'cold turkey.' My experience as a health professional has made me realise that we are not winning the war on drugs and our current approaches are not working."

Carnell points out that NSW co-operation with the final stage of the trial remains crucial.

"Heroin that is sold on the streets of Canberra is prima-

**As recently as 1953, heroin was available over the counter at chemist shops in Australia in a relatively inexpensive syrup of a measured dose. There were few health problems associated with its consumption in this form. Overdose was practically unheard of and heroin-dependent people lived generally normal lives. It was the criminalisation of heroin which brought the attendant risk of overdose inherent in buying from the black market and the associated problems of crime, corruption and blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C.**

rily sourced, according to police information, from NSW. Heroin addiction and treatment is a problem that is not exclusive to the ACT. If anything, it is far more serious in NSW and it is in the interests of both governments that we work together to develop new strategies to tackle this issue.

"In addition, there are logistical issues associated with the heroin pilot that would need the support of the NSW Government. Issues such as importation and transport of the pharmaceutical heroin via NSW, co-operation from

However, on the Salvos' own figures, it is also clear that abstinence therapies do not work for all people.

The Salvation Army's opposition to the heroin trial, and their championing of abstinence as a positive alternative, rests on the assumption that people are perfectible. But laws which attach criminal sanctions to personal choices cannot force perfection. Although the Salvos continue to provide valuable support on a street level to desperate drug-dependent people, their clinging to abstinence-based treatments as the only appropriate way forward is a narrow

## Why we need a sharper fix on our heroin policy

NSW

police in relation to persons registered on the pilot program, and education programs would all need to be resolved between our governments."

Whether Sydney eventually gets the go-ahead will depend on the amount of noise that opponents of the trial make during the first two stages of the trial. It is almost certain that no matter how positive the outcomes of the initial stages, hard-liners will twist the results to support their view that prescription of heroin is flawed and that the experiment should be terminated before further damage is done.

Of those opponents, the Salvation Army has been one of the most outspoken. The Salvos reject the heroin trial on grounds which are familiar to many people who support a "strengthening" of the existing position in respect of illegal drugs — among them, that similar trials overseas have failed, that the trial would "send the wrong message", that we ought to question the values of a society which supplies addictive and stupefying drugs to people, and that we ought to be striving towards the ideal of a drug-free society.

As an alternative to maintenance treatment, the Salvos offer their own method. The Salvation Army uses an abstinence-based twelve-step detoxification program of six to twelve months in residential settings, comprising group and individual counselling.

"We are currently involved in a research project to determine long-term results," says Major Brian Watters of the Salvos' Rehabilitation Services branch. "Our indications are that approximately 25% of people going through our program remain free of drugs. Another significant percentage have marked improvements in their lifestyle and general functioning. Clients are given outpatient support after they return to the community and there is a brief relapse treatment program available to those who stop."

It is clear that abstinence-based therapies do assist some dependent users to resume drug-free, or relatively drug-free, lives.

vision. It fails to recognise that substantial improvements to health and wellbeing can be realised by those people for whom withdrawal may not immediately be possible, but for whom maintenance treatments offer a chance to stabilise their lives and get themselves back together.

Everybody knows at least one smoker who has tried to give up, probably on numerous occasions, but has failed. But for a smoker on thirty cigarettes a day, coming down to ten would be a substantial improvement. If the same logic was applied to heroin, rather than the familiar and empty posturing about the "stupefying, addictive" nature of the drug which "supplants and subsumes all other natu-

## Heroin isn't the killer

ral instincts, morality and interests", the trial would begin to make more sense to those who make choices based primarily on the legality or illegality of a substance, rather than the considerable health risks associated with exposing people to drugs sourced from the black market.

Maintenance therapy offers participants clean and controlled doses in a supervised environment.



CALL FOR ACTION: Major Brian Watters yesterday. Picture: VIRGINIA STAR

## Salvo fired at drug dealers

ONE of Australia's highest-ranking Salvation Army officers has called for immigrants convicted of drug dealing to be automatically deported after serving their jail terms. Major Brian Watters said magistrates and the police — had to accept most of the blame for the increasing devastation being wrought by drugs such as heroin. Major Watters, the Salvation Army's rehabilitation services commander in NSW, the

"We have not declared war yet. We are only playing games. If we had the same war mentality in 1942 as we do now against drugs, we would be speaking Japanese."

The outburst lowered revelations from the Federal Cabinet considering to be easier to citizen victed of

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## Drugs ban as failed: Ps group

TEN LAWSON  
The group did not condone the use of legal or illegal drugs but believed harm caused by drugs.

"At the heart of the problem is the definition of drug use as a law enforcement matter rather than a health opportunity for future employment (and) stability in life and do not appear to reduce dangerous drug use."

Controlled availability of drugs, in which drugs could be prescribed and dispensed under strict controls at all model, was more effective.

The time had come for a new approach, the report said.

"The choice seems to be between living in the real world or trying to be...



# 'Drugs war being lost'

By BRONWEN GORA  
**AUSTRALIA'S** peak medical body has slammed the Federal Government declaring the fight against drugs is being lost.

Compulsory drug education for children and teenagers was essential and should start in primary school, Dr Woodford said.  
 "We have buried our heads in the sand as far as educating kids about the problems. There's something

ronment as an alternative to obtaining quantities of the drug of unknown concentration and purity in circumstances in which people are frequently tempted to share injecting equipment. It seeks to reduce drug harm by keeping [please italicise next word] alive those people for whom abstinence will not work. Major Watters, however, does not accept that maintenance therapies can ever be appropriate for those who are not yet 'ready' for abstinence.

## Politicians are running scared,

"I suppose we could provide houses to burgle and cars to steal and banks to rob for those not 'ready' to give up their 'habit'," he says. "The use of heroin is an illegal activity — a crime. Its impact on society is at least as costly and disruptive as those other crimes. By law enforcement and education we can expedite the process of becoming ready to be drug free."

The analogy is absurd in a curiously twisted way. Heroin use is not bank robbery; it is a personal choice (albeit one in which serious risks are inherent), the *criminalisation* of which causes a great deal of harm, increasing the risks to health of dependent users and the costs to the community in terms of treatment, crime and enforcement.

As recently as 1953, heroin was available over the counter at chemist shops in Australia in a relatively inexpensive syrup of a measured dose. There were few health problems associated with its consumption in this form. Overdose was practically unheard of and heroin-dependent people lived generally normal lives. It was the criminalisation of heroin which brought the attendant risk of overdose inherent in buying from the black market and the associated problems of crime, corruption and blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C. The rejection of main-

tenance-based therapies on the basis that heroin is illegal denies the real problems that criminalisation

## prohibition is

has caused.

Our house was broken into the other day. They came in through a side window. They didn't make a lot of mess, just rifled through a few drawers and went through a friend's packed suitcase which was sitting in the corner. They took my money box and but left the CDs behind.

In ways such as this, drug issues affect everybody. Even if you don't know anybody who uses illegal drugs, in a number of ways you are already paying the costs of attempting to enforce laws which do not work, of a public health system which bears the cost of caring for over 100,000 Australians who have Hepatitis C through unsafe injecting, and of higher insurance premiums the direct result of our high levels of property crime.

We need new approaches, not old rhetoric, and Carnell is frank: "I am not prepared, either as a politician or as a pharmacist, to turn my back on the many people who are trying to deal with their addiction in Canberra and around Australia without exploring every option to improve their quality of life, help them beat the drug and, in some cases, keep them alive. The 'Say No to Drugs' message might work for most people, but for thousands of young Australians, it doesn't." In the search for a more rational paradigm which minimises the harm that drugs cause, the heroin trial will provide valuable information on which to go further.

## If you can't beat them

The question is not whether we should decriminalise drugs — it is whether they should be mandatory. And the answer, clearly, is yes.

Look at it this way. Most drugs, legal or otherwise, have a common effect: they turn the user into a boring, blithering idiot. Drug talk is *notoriously* boring. Okay, this is not so great if you made a rational conversation out of the user, or depend upon him or her for something, like, say, a properly performed piece of neurosurgery. On the other hand, modern society encourages, indeed prizes, stupidity. You need proof? Which name is better known, that of the Australian who discovered stomach ulcers are caused by bacteria, or Kate Fischer? The mere fact that you know what a "Peter Andre" is should convince you.

"But, but", you splutter, "shouldn't we try to raise the level of society?" Yes, and let's abolish hatred, poverty and Fred Nile by next Friday too. Where would the economy be if we insisted on only producing sensible, rational things? Even the shitty McJobs which are offered to the young unemployed as a substitute for real work by the Government would disappear.

If we insist on being dumb, if we couple that with cynicism, when all the while we have a high standard of living compared to most people on the planet, of course we're going to be unhappy. Changing things requires intelligence, commitment and effort, all of which are too hard. The only way out of our existential hell is some artificial pleasure. That's where drugs come in.

Of course, there are some practical issues to consider. Adding ecstasy to the water supply would be easy, but frankly, there are some people I don't want hugs from. Do we slip cocaine into sugar, combining two traditionally third world crops and therefore helping the agricultural poor overseas? Or require everybody to go the pub before work and unleash an epidemic of brewer's droop on the bedrooms of Australia? Decisions, decisions.

Pass the needle and praise the Lord.

— JANINA JANKOWSKI

THE CANBERRA TIMES TUESDAY MAY 6 1997  
**The Canberra Times**  
 TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY AND THROUGH IT THE NATION

## Rethink on drugs policy

**THERE** is one industry — it is the second-largest in the world — in which Australia wants no trade in illicit drugs, weapons and ranking about the same on the scale of social usefulness. Now, a group of about 100 MPs from Australia's federal state and territory legislatures has called for a complete rethink of drugs policy, saying that prohibition has failed. According to the MPs about half-a-billion dollars is spent fighting the drug trade in Australia each year, yet the net profits of the trade have grown to exceed those of the oil industry. The MPs say that banning drugs has contributed to the spread of diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, has fostered police corruption and has handed control of the trade to a black market. They argue forcefully that while drug abuse continues to be a law enforcement matter, one of law enforcement risks are higher for the profit from illegal drugs but the potential for commensurately increased Asian jails fuelling someone with risk, whatever the system. The mystic approach seems another



**I saw a young mother pushing a baby in a stroller score heroin from a teenage dealer... on my right a woman crouched with a needle in her arm was taking the same drug**

... VISIBLY shocked...  
 ... a young mother...  
 ... a woman...  
 ... a needle...  
 ... the same drug...

**Telegraph**  
 Tuesday, August 9, 1997  
**Heroin trial is courting disaster**  
**T**HE fashionably-applauded trial of free heroin for addicts, approved by the Government last week, is already looking like a disaster. Even before its implementation, the program is being criticised for its half-baked objectives and for the fact that some of the most pious can be consulted for the problem, except the people who abuse the drug. It was a decision based on the failure of the law and common sense and two other State Government members of the ACT, who have not noticed its predicament has not noticed its predicament.

# The 1997 Scav Hunt

## prizes

This year, the Students' Association and the ANU Union have got together to offer you some mighty fine prizes as an incentive to going all out:

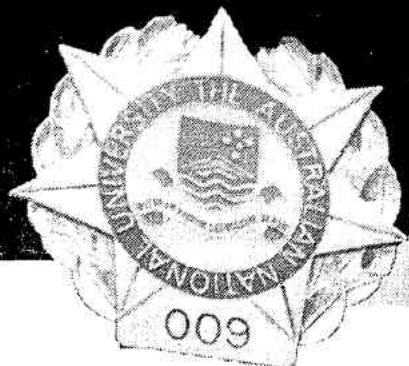
- 1st Prize \$500 Union Voucher
- 2nd Prize \$300 Union Voucher
- 3rd Prize \$200 Union Voucher

Plus there will be special prizes on the day for teams and individuals who perform most impressively in the stunts section.

## on campus

- 100 Largest Collection of Reading Bricks from ANU Philosophy Department
- 20 "Nudie Hijinks" *Woroni* (1995)
- 60 Uncensored copy 1996 *Woroni* issue 6
- 50 1994 "No Fees" T-Shirt
- 20 1996 O-Week Cap
- 40 Photo of Patrick Mackerras with cigarette in his mouth
- 60 Malcolm Mackerras
- 30 Professor John Warhurst
- 40 ANU Examination Script Book with Lowest Mark
- 10 Pre-1994 ANU Student Card, non-digitised (Max 10)
- 50 Oldest ANU Student Card
- 30 "A Better Deal" Beer Coaster from 1995 SA elections
- 50 ANU set text signed by all authors
- 20 Asian Bistro staff member
- 40 Uni Bar bouncer
- 50 ANU Security badge
- 10 ANU cuff-links
- 20 "Get into Focus" poster
- 40 Current ANU Sexuality Officer
- 10 Past editor, *Woroni*
- 50 Family photograph of the Vice-Chancellor
- 60 *Smell My Finger* with Jeff Kennett on the front cover
- 100 Duck crossing sign
- 200 Duck caught from Sullivan's Creek
- 150 Dolly's sign
- 2 ANU parking ticket (max 20)
- 20 University Medal
- 50 Mark of 100 in any unit
- 50 Mark below 20 in any unit

(below) Score an ANU Security badge, and fight the campus forces of darkness



## rules

- Teams must consist of no more than 15 ANU students.
- You must drop your team name and list of team members in the Suggestion Box outside the Union Office (opposite Salwa's Lebanese Bar), or give it to Karen at the Students' Association, by no later than 4pm on Wednesday, 20th August.
- You must bring all items collected to the judges in Union Court between 11am and 2pm on Thursday, 21st August. All team stunts must also be performed during this time.
- Your team will get the number of points indicated on the list below for each item collected. Where people have to be collected, only the team who presents them first gets the points. Where stunts or items have a point range, the judges will have discretion to award any number of points within that range, depending on how impressive you are! It should be assumed that a maximum of 1 of each item can be presented by each team unless otherwise indicated.

## university of canberra

- 150 University of Canberra Clock
- 20 Item of Clothing with University of Canberra Logo
- 80 President of University of Canberra Students' Association
- 15 Labelled sheet from University of Canberra hall of residence (max 10)
- 10 Overdue University of Canberra Library Books (max 10)
- 5 University of Canberra Student Cards (max 20)
- 50 University of Canberra academic
- 10 Iguana Cafe serviette (max 5)
- 10 Ticket to concert at the University of Canberra Bar (max 10)
- 20 University of Canberra degree in Marketing or Public Relations
- 80 Canberra College of Advanced Education degree
- 20 1997 University of Canberra Student Diary
- 40 University of Canberra Notification of Results which includes a fail



# from the closet

- 40 McDonald's polystyrene burger container
- 60 Kiss Lunchbox
- 20 Optimus Prime transformer
- 50 Gay Ken doll
- 60 Castle Greyskull
- 5 Pizza Hut Puzzle Placemats (max 10)
- 60 Headless Tickle-me Elmo Doll
- 10 Cabbage Patch Doll (max 10)
- 10 *Yes and Know* book
- 10 Mello Yello cans (max 10)
- 20 Biography, Keanu Reeves
- 40 Working copy, Operation boardgame
- 60 Toy Womble
- 15 Stackhat, square design (max 5)
- 80 Chinese Dragon
- 40 *Fraggle Rock* Video
- 100 Icelandic currency
- 20 Charles and Diana fifty cent piece (max 10)
- 1 *Star Wars* Tazos (max 100)
- 40 Magic Sand
- 50 Expo 1988 Passport
- 60 Largest cup-sized bra
- 50 Pickled Body Organs (max 5)
- 20 Item of Bros clothing (max 5)
- 20 "I can't believe it's not butter" tub
- 5 Fruity smelling textas (max 20)
- 50 My Little Pony
- 80 Demtel Hair in a Can
- 40 Jennie Garth workout video
- 40 Santa Claus Coke Can
- 70 2-Minute Noodles expired before 1995
- 30 Bicentennial Medal (max 10)
- 5 Squash Ball (max 20)
- 60 Chainsaw
- 40 Game and Watch
- 30 Hyper-colour T-Shirt
- 60 Framed picture of Queen Elizabeth II
- 60 Framed picture of Chairman Mao
- 10 Birth tag from Royal Canberra Hospital (max 10)
- 5 Gold Milk Bottle Tops (max 20)
- 60 Chef's Hat
- 5 \$1 Notes (max 20)
- 30 Spice Girls CD
- 60 Smash Hits '87 album
- 40 Torres Strait Island flag
- 100 Old South African flag
- 60 *Where Do I Come From?* Sex Education Book
- 10 Masseur sandals (max 10)
- 150 On-the-spot fine for Marijuana possession
- 40 Copy of Leonard Nimoy's two biographies *I am Not Spock* and *I am Spock*
- 60 Queen "Live in Budapest" Video
- 60 McCartney and Jackson "SAY SAY SAY" single (1983)
- 70 Light up Star Wars light sabre
- 60 Cliff Richard poster
- 50 *Rolling Stone* magazine with Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny on cover
- 40 Dr Who badge
- 40 School Jumper from a Canberra Primary School (max 5)
- 100 *ET* T-Shirt
- 50 *The Killing Joke* Batman Graphic Novel
- 40 *Six Degrees of Danny Dickvoss*, the book
- 60 A 1988 Superspecial *Mad* Magazine



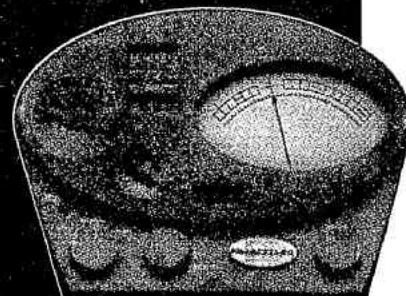
(above) Keanu's award-winning biography, featuring the thrilling chapter, "Young, Dumb, and Full of Cum"

(below) The Spice Girls CD: It's what you want what you really really want if you want 30 points



# about town

- 80 Largest Number of Scientology Personality Tests
- 200 Scientology e-meter
- 100 Passport stamped in Zaïre
- 200 Passport stamped in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- 40 Farm Animal (max 5)
- 50 CFMEU Cap
- 100 Innovations product displayed in *Woroni*
- 60 Photo of team member with Senator Stott-Despoja
- 1000 Original civic bus interchange clock
- 50 FM104.7 Morning Crew Presenter (max 2)
- 100 Black Thunder
- 200 AIDS bus
- 40 Member of Brumby Rugby Choir
- 1 Casino Canberra Pencil (max 100)
- 50 Court Summons for theft of Casino Canberra Pencils
- 80 Coles docket from 3:48 am
- 500 Senator Vanstone's Versace Shirt
- 20 Parliament House security pass
- 20 Butt photocopies of team members (max 5)
- 30 Chubba Chup, giant
- 150 Ticket to a 1997 Ashes Test Match
- 50 Visa Waver Form from the USA
- 400 Jackie Chan's parents
- Team Member(s) photographed naked in front of:
  - 30 Welcome to the ACT Sign
  - 50 Mugga Lane Tip
  - 80 Life-size Ronald McDonald statue
  - 200 QANTAS jet
  - 80 Person alive when Fitzroy won its last Premiership
  - 40 Shoprite Name Badge
  - 100 Shoprite Name Badge, Sharon
  - 40 Milk Crate
  - 80 Photograph of Security Guard at the Lodge
  - 1000 Copy of Magna Carta from Parliament House
  - 150 Current Canberra Raiders 1st Grade Player
  - 150 Current Memeber of the ACT Legislative Assembly
  - 1000 Diver, Stuart



(above) Is it worth joining the Church of Scientology for 200 points?

# stunts

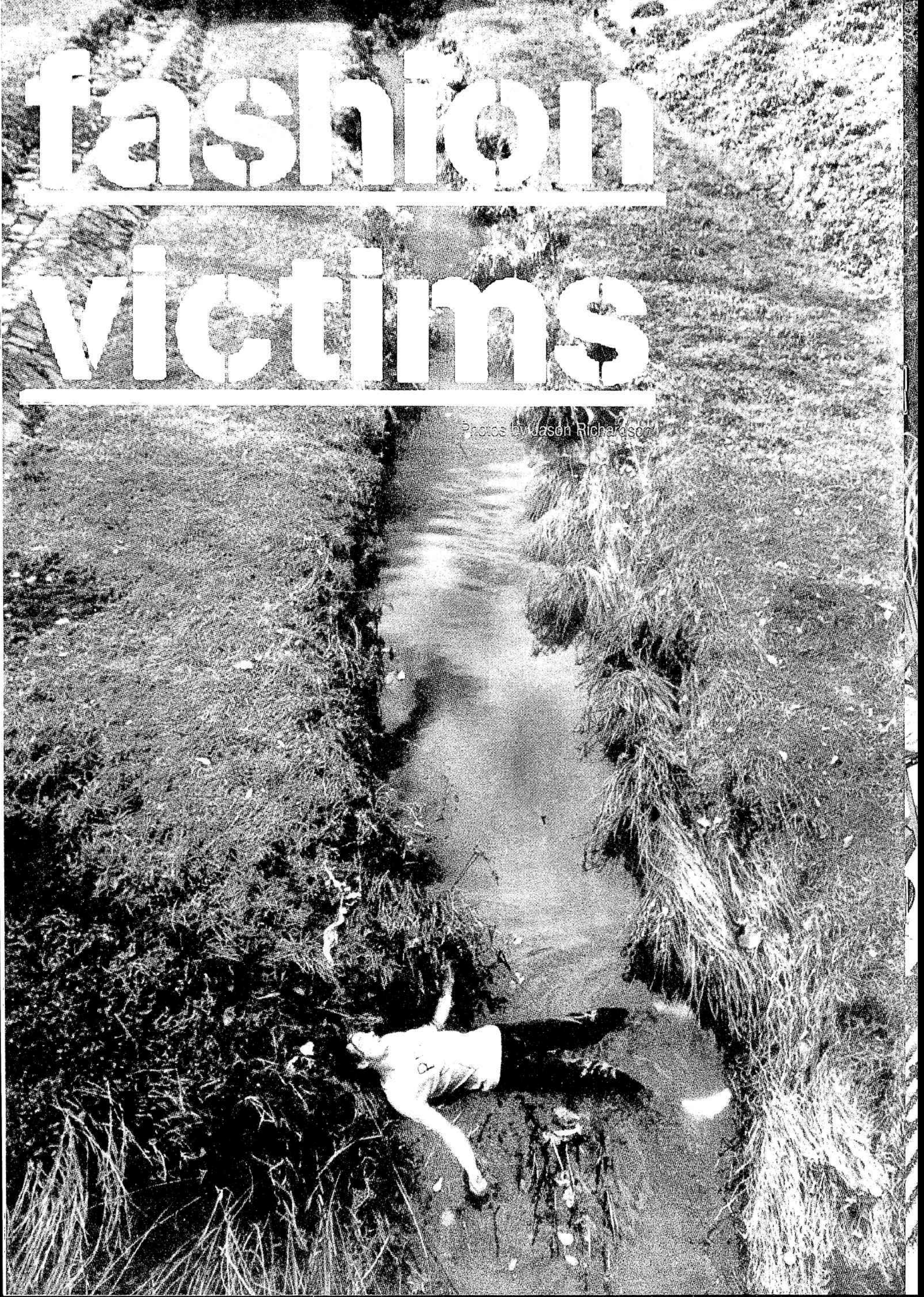
- 100 Most Refectory wedges in a small cup
- 1-150 Immersion in Sullivan's Creek
- 1-150 Birdseed Bell eaten by team members
- 1-200 Most innovative street theatre performance
- 100 Team member wearing Track 1 Tracksuit with Dunlop KT-26 shoes
- 1-200 Landscape painting of Union Court
- 1-200 4 litre cask of Jazz Series wine drunk between two members
- 500 Local media coverage of your own stunt
- 1000 National media coverage



(below) the Scav Hunt is perhaps the only place you'll be rewarded for wearing Dunlop KT-26's

# fashion victims

Photos by Jason Richardson





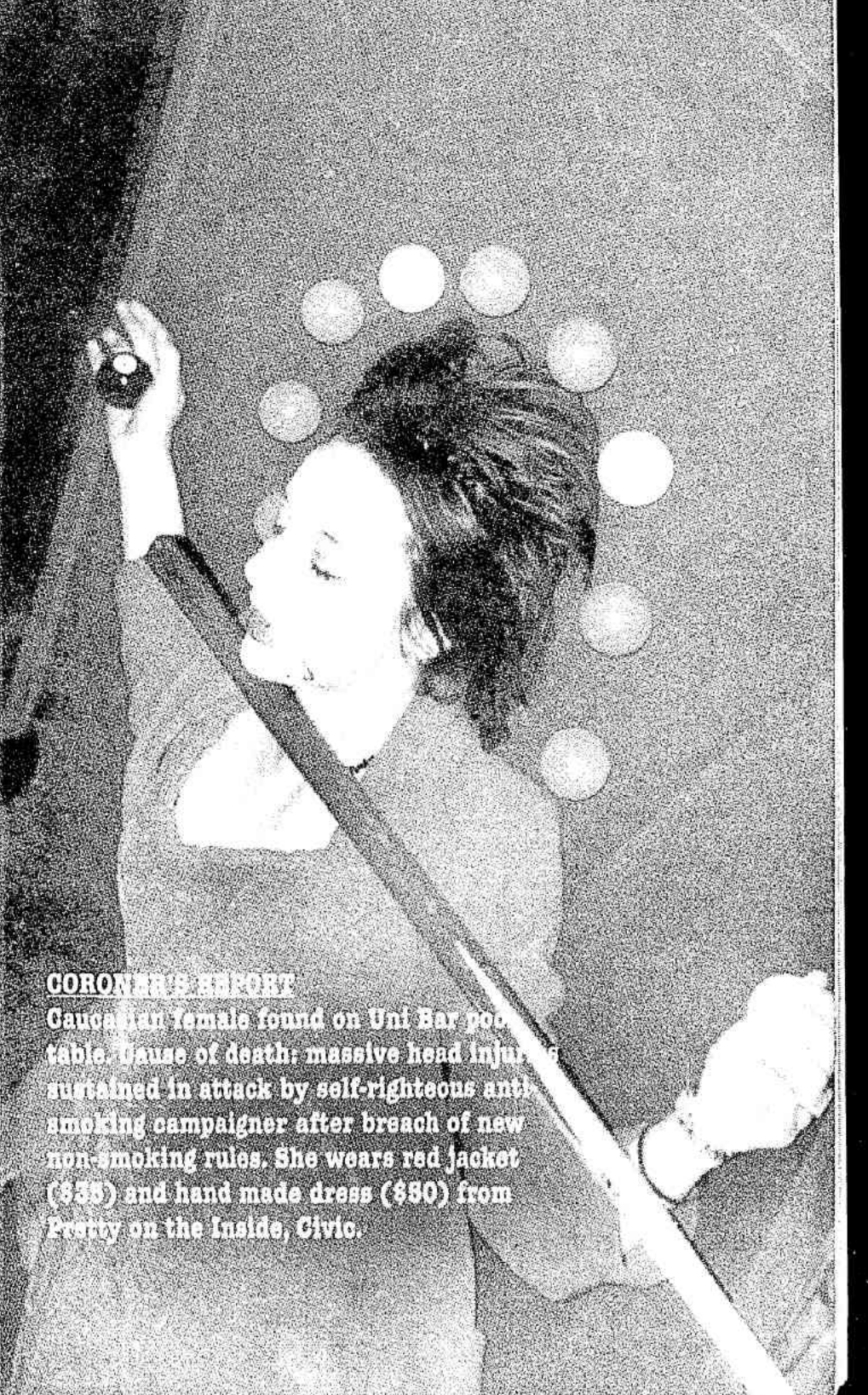
**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian male found in Sullivan's Creek. Cause of death, unknown. Injuries include laceration from broken schooner glass and puncture marks from frenzied duck attack. Wears skivvy from Target, Civic featuring handpainted design (\$14.95) and imitation Diesel and Gabbana jeans from Thailand sweat shop (\$3.50)



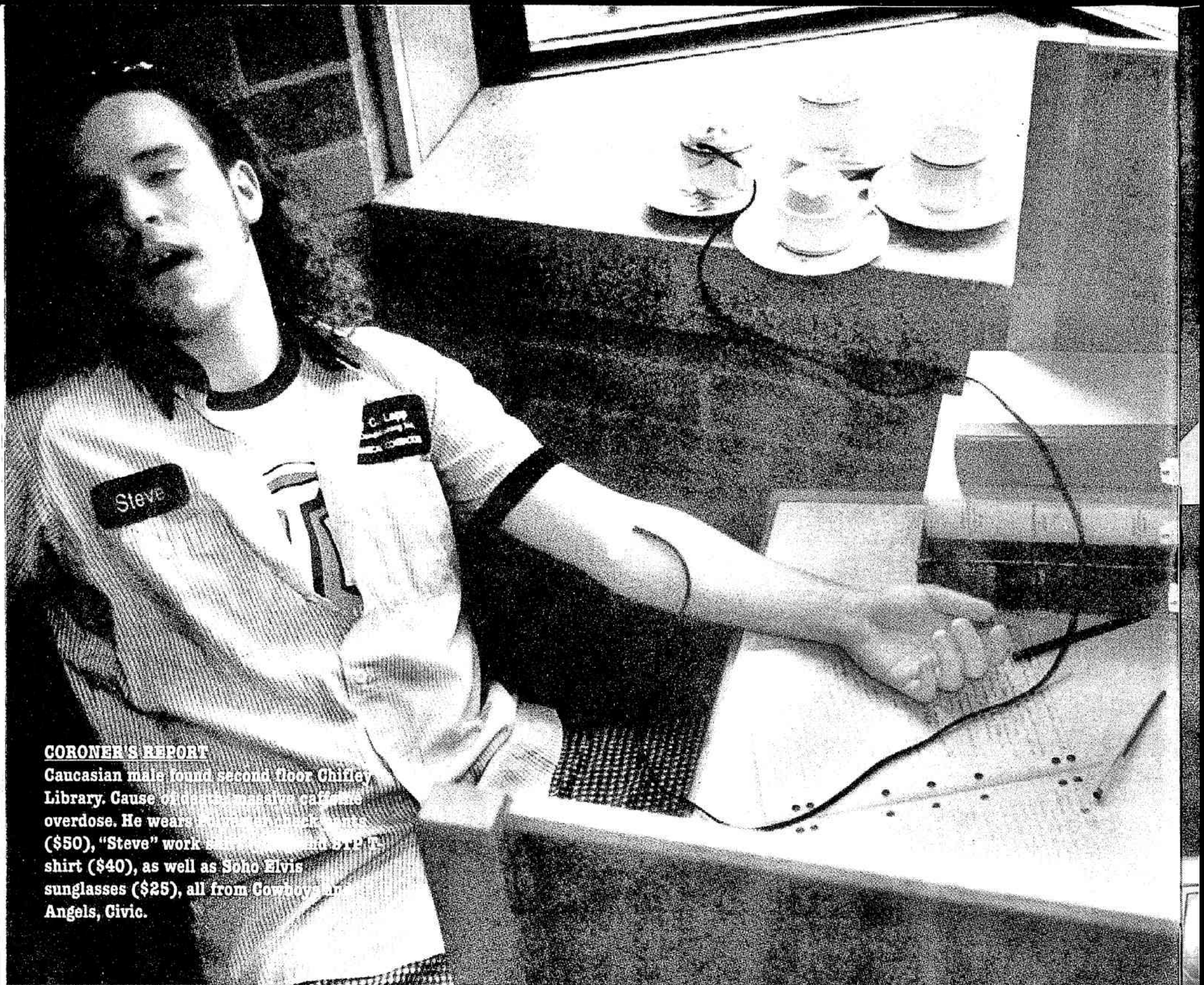
**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian male found at the bottom of Strathmore stairs. Cause of death, broken neck sustained when falling down stairs after inhaling cannabis fumes from back garden below. He wears purple flares (\$35) and a tie (\$5), polyester tie (\$5) and a pair of sandals (\$20) all from Pretty on the Inside, Civic.



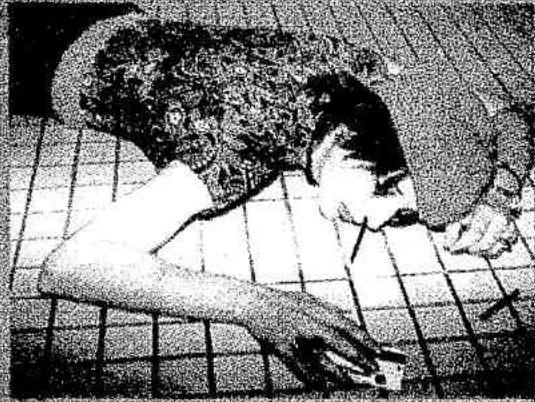
**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian female found on Uni Bar pool table. Cause of death, massive head injuries sustained in attack by self-righteous anti-smoking campaigner after breach of new non-smoking rules. She wears red jacket (\$35) and hand made dress (\$80) from Pretty on the Inside, Civic.



**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian male found second floor Chifley Library. Cause of death: massive caffeine overdose. He wears Ed Hardy sunglasses (\$50), "Steve" work shirt (\$10) and BTB T-shirt (\$40), as well as Soho Elvis sunglasses (\$25), all from Cowboy Angels, Civic.



**CORONER'S REPORT**

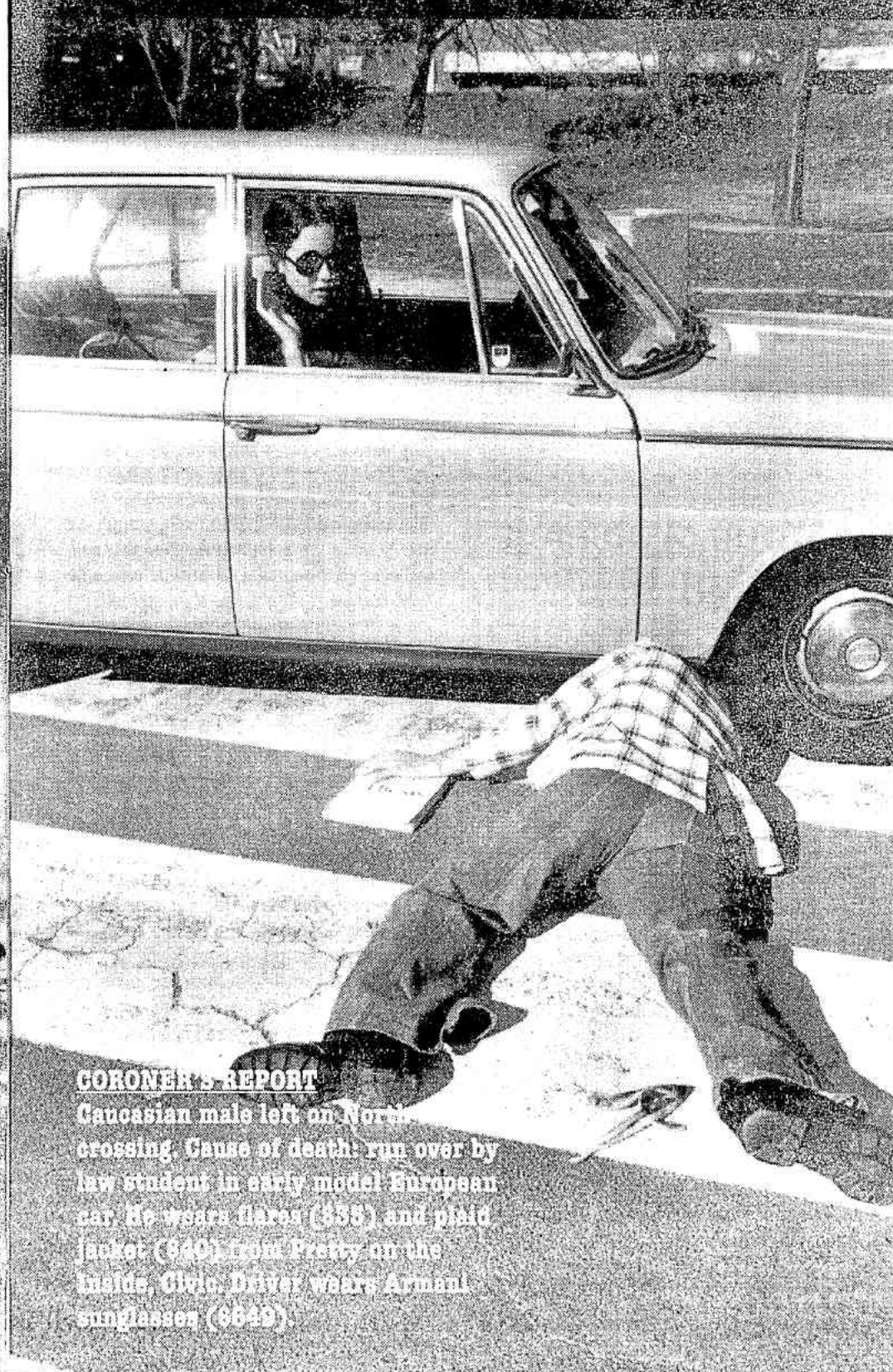
Caucasian female found on floor of Union toilets. Cause of death: attempted to sniff powdered urinal puck. She wears Red beret (\$5) and jumpsuit (\$25) from Pretty on the Inside, Civic.





**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian female found in Copeland computer lab. Cause of death: electrocution after attempting to retrieve disk from faulty computer drive. She wears black PVC corset (\$75) and black velvet skirt (\$48) from Roadkill Boutique, Civic.



**CORONER'S REPORT**

Caucasian male left on North crossing. Cause of death: run over by law student in early model European car. He wears flares (\$35) and plaid jacket (\$40) from Pretty on the Inside, Civic. Driver wears Armani sunglasses (\$649).

**unibar**



UNLESS STATED ALL AGES, SM, WS ARE FOR OVER 18'S AND I.D. MUST BE SHOWN

THU 14 AUG ANU FREE ENTRY

**JAZZ N JUGS**

FRI 15 AUG

**CAMPUS BAND COMP - HEAT 3**

SAT 16 AUG TICKETS ON SALE

**TEA PARTY** ALL AGES SHOW

WED 20 AUG

**FUNKY, ACID, AFRO, LOUNGE**

FRI 22 AUG

**CAMPUS BAND COMP - HEAT 6**

WED 27 AUG A NIGHT OF PURE PHUNK

**ILL LIZARD BEATS**

FRI 29 AUG

**SLIPSHOT**

SAT 30 AUG

**ELEPHUNK + WAY HIP ANTELOPES + CRUMPET**

WED 03 SEPT TICKETS ON SALE NOW - ALL AGES

**MIDNIGHT OIL + INSURGE**

SAT 28 SEPT TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

TUE 30 SEPT TICKETS ON SALE NOW ALL AGES SHOW

**VERUCA SALT SALT + THE BLOODHOUND GANG**

WED 01 OCT TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**BEN FOLDS FIVE**

THU 02 OCT TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**CAKE**

ANU *unibar*

# LICK IT UP

wake n



Our Richard Marx in:  
**Goin' to the chapel**

...guest starring Jon Bon Jovi



"Jovi! Hungry!" Richard yelled, as he picked sleep out of the corners of his baby blues and scratched dried dribble off his cheeks. "Hey honey." A voice beside him said. He jumped. A strange woman lay beside him, a woman who bore an uncanny resemblance to 'n' of Salt 'n' Pepa. "This should cover it." She lay a \$100 bill on the bedside table and without so much as a 'how's your father,' she made like a tree and left.

"Wait!" called Richard, "At least tell me it was special! Joviii!" In stumbled the increasingly lax butler with a tray of cold pizza. He flicked the pizza at Marxie and collapsed on the floor. Richard tipped the remains of a bottle of beer in his face and questioned him on the happenings of the previous night. It transpired that Richie had thrown a party to celebrate the regrowth of his hair. Unable to lure anybody to his bed, Richie had come up with the bright idea of charging for his services. Used to distorting stories for his boss's benefit, Jovi described Richard beating off customers with a stick.

This got Richard thinking. Just like in the days of '88 he had earned money doing what he did best, and it was here that Richie decided on a career change. He made a vow to be the best damned prostitute LA had ever seen! He donned his best white jeans, the ones that hugged his buttocks, adding definition, and a simple brown leather jacket through which his pecks peeked like two scoops of chocolate ice cream with cherries on top. He looked so tasty he almost hired himself, but thought better of it and sauntered out into his front yard. He stood and stood but his neighbours passed him by, with comments like "Enjoying the sun, Richard?" He tried hooking his thumbs in his pockets, turning up his collar and sticking his crotch out suggestively — but to no avail.

"Aha, I've got it! I'll stand next to the road!" He walked out of his gorgeous garden, in which stood a proud hedge sculpture of John Diesel, with a John Thomas to match his musical ability. He stood at the curb for an hour. He did not become

bored, however, as he was fascinated by the aura of raw sex lent to his appearance by the sweat dripping off his chest and the dark patches on his white jeans. His neighbour Mrs Benson drove up to him and stopped. "Want a lift, Richard?" Success! he hopped in. "Is that a dance the kids are doing nowadays?" she asked, referring to the large circular pelvic movements Richie had been using to encourage business. "Yeah, but it's usually done horizontally," Richard replied wittily. "So how do you want it baby?" he asked, and unbuttoned his fly. Apparently Mrs Benson was just being neighbourly and not in need of a good seeing to. She threw him out on the curb.

"Must be a lesbian," thought Marxie sensibly and burst into tears. A voice broke through his misery. "Hey sexy, I'll give you some money in exchange for sex!" Richard looked up like a child on Christmas morn. His eyes took in the remarkably similar explosion of hair and the muscular but vulnerable arms. "J-J-Jon Bon Jovi!" "That's right, Richard. Let's make beautiful music together, and I don't mean beautiful rock 'n' roll ballads, no. I mean let's have sex." Richard punched himself to make sure he wasn't dreaming.

Bon Jovi revived him back at his place by giving him a golden shower. Sweet nothings were whispered and bishops were buried. The night served as an inspiration for Jovi's later album *Slippery When Wet*.

They were married in a small private service at Jon's Dubbo love nest. It was a ceremony fit for two rock stars. Richie blushed in white leather, and Jovi was a dream in casual plastic sandals. The wedding went smoothly until Richard had to put his hands down his pants to fumble for the ring. However, a good time was had by all, and, unbeknownst to Richard, so was Jovi.

"You're the best man," Richard said to Jovi after the vows were said. "I thought Sambora was the best man!" Jovi japed. Everybody laughed except for Richard, who frowned and then laughed loudly after everybody had stopped.

—SARAH HUTCHINGS

## Shoot Me Up Elmo

Elmo Shakes & Convulses when you shoot him up with Heroin

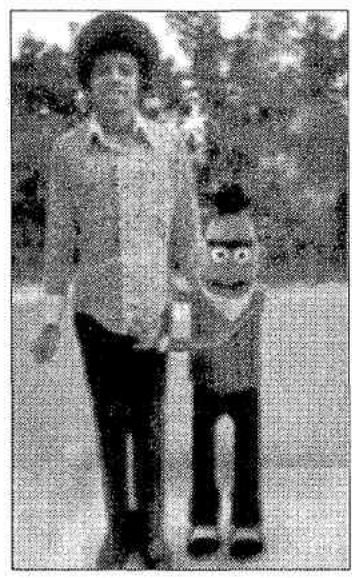


## Bert is evil! The Michael Jackson connection

Our investigations recently uncovered this old photograph of a young Michael Jackson standing with Bert who is fondling his pelvic area. It is now clear where Michael Jackson's predilection for paedophilia stems from. Bert molested him as a child and he is only releasing frustrations and fears that have welled in his mind for years. In an interview with ex-wife Lisa Marie Presley she confessed to us that Michael used to make her "Do the Pigeon" naked whilst he sat across the room and watched. We tried to interview the 'King of Pop' about the allegations but all he could say was, "I am a gentleman".

## That wacky web!

In this edition of "That Wacky Web!" we focus our attentions on a group called "Fractal Cow" who have provided us with the "Bert is Evil" homepage. Most of this page is actually pretty dumb (Oh I see Bert with Adolf Hitler and Jeffrey Dahmer... they were pretty evil weren't they?) but the "Shoot me up Elmo" and the Michael Jackson piss-take deserve an honourable mention. If you want to find the site look up "Bert is evil" on Alta Vista, because I couldn't be bothered writing out one of those shitty internet addresses.



## Your problems solved with Dean and Rob from the Curiosity Show

Dear Dean and Rob,  
Hi, how R U? I've recently just finished my "monthlies" and apart from some leakage at inappropriate moments and those inevitable body numbing period pains, went OK. See yaz,  
Dolmio

Dear Dean and Rob,  
Hi, it's me again — you know the "dolmio grin". Anyway, you remember how I had that little problem but everything turned out for the best? Well I just came back from a Contiki holiday in Vanuatu (special thanks go out to captain "the berber shag-pile"

Wilson) and how can I put this...? Well, Warren was giving me the reverse shoulder ride, which is all just a bit of fun, and let's say the Captain ended up with a grin of his own. What can I do to avoid these moments ever happening again, coz I really like him and now he just doesn't want to know me. Yours,  
Dolmio

Dear Dolmio,  
We used your nickname even though we don't quite understand you. You kids and all your funny words! One thing we are familiar with is the terrible time you women must be going through every month. Having to cope with this and oppression by men must be pretty spectacular.

Unwanted leakage has always been a bit of a social faux pas hasn't it? Due to the fact that, by law, we aren't allowed to endorse products anymore, we cannot recommend the Kegelcisor (as seen in April's Woroni, retailing at the amazing price of \$118) but what we have come up with is some type of plug that you can put together using bits and pieces you should have around your home. First, go and ask mum if she's got a few old kitchen sponges, but try to avoid those that have a scourer on one side! She might also have an old egg carton, if so, grab that and go and see if dad's got a bit of Selly's "No More Gaps".

If you come up trumps on these items write back and we'll send you out an assembly instruction booklet. Keep exploring your world!  
Dean and Rob



WOW! GORGUTS, GOREFEST, GOREAPHOBIA AND GORE BEYOND NECROPSY!

NOT TO MENTION CORPSE MOLESTATION, CANNIBAL CORPSE, CORPSE GOD AND CORPSE GRINDER!!

That nite. HM...GOOD TURNOUT...

JUST LET ME CHECK WITH SATAN. WERE LIKE A TEAM SATAN & ME.

HEY, SATAN... SHOULD WE DO PLAN A?

HM... LET ME CHECK WITH JESUS.

...I DONT KNOW SUCH STUFF! I JUST MAKE EYES! ...JUST EYES!

ARKS ARCHIE!

NECROLOGY, NECRONY AND ANATOMY!

CANTHOO SEE IM BIZZY?! ARKS THE PHANTOM!

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER?

OH, FORGET IT! WELL DO PLAN A.

SO... THIS IS OUR NDD SONG ENTITLED.. 'BLOOD OF SORROW IN A STREAM PART VII'.

D-DID HE SAY...

WHY... I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST ANOTHER EVIL SATANIST... BUT THAT SOUNDS QUITE POETIC...

THEYRE DOING... AN ACOUSTIC INTRO!

WITH KEYBOARDS... AND A SWEET FEMALE VOCALIST!

WHO WOULDVE THOUGHT SUCH A BRUTAL BUNCH OF ROCKIN' SATANISTS COULD BE SO... SO... BEAUTIFU

I want to have sex with them!

WHAT AN ORIGINAL IDEA... AN ACOUSTIC SONG... BY A DEATH METAL BAND!

I CHALLENGE ANY MAN WHO SAYS DEATH METAL MUSICIANS CANT PLAY!

SUDDENLY... RRAAAA... IN A MONSTA!

WOO! THAT CAUGHT ME UNAWARES! PHEW! I WAS THINKING THEYD LOST THE ABILITY TO ROCK!

I GUESS THEY ARE SENSITIVE HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL!

QUICK! WE GOTTA GET BACK TO H.Q. AND RE-THINK ALL OUR PREJUDICED VIEWS ON SATANISM!

born again

RIGHT!

Narrow minded Conformists. Can't they see were tired of being ignored... noone understands... the underground is growing faster... head-bangers slave to their master... metal rules... mosh pit of disaster... Metal rules... headbangers slave to their master.

Who are they to take what's mine? Turn their heads and call me names? You took the 1 thing that I owned. The radio station that was untuned.

**Mofal!** SOME GOT IT SOME AINT GOT IT... IF YOU AINT GOT IT... YOU NEED IT. FLAUNT IT WHILE YOUVE STILL GOT IT AND IF YOUVE GOT IT, YOUVE GOT IT... SOME GOT IT ... SOME DONT. IF YOUVE GOT IT... YOU NEED IT. YO.

# Slack acts

Tales of complete bastardry from the ranks of the great unwashed

Ahhh yes, the prank phone call — have you ever failed us? It may seem improbable but one of the most successful prank calls ever witnessed was made from the pay-phones outside what is now Impact Records at about midnight in the middle of a large Summer evening crowd of drunken piss heads, spilling out from various nearby bars and clubs.

The perpetrator was a guy named... well let's call him "Cookie". The victim was one of those loser friends. You know the ones, you can stand the sight of their face but essentially, they're the "genus strap-onus". For whatever reason people have these friends — they have cars and give people lifts because they never drink, they have connections in something you need and there just tolerable enough to be nice to, they have a pool or they have a spunky and cool sibling who you wouldn't mind getting in the sack — for whatever reason, everyone seems to have them. They are usually people you went to primary school with and now you've grown-up a bit, find they are no longer amusing, however you now go to high school with them and have discovered that you can't get rid of them. Whatever the case, it's in high school that this story takes place.

Strictly speaking this story is not really set in high school because school was "out", as they say in the films, for the last time and we had all just turned 18. The combination of no more school, night time warmth and no further need for fake ID was a potent one. We had spent the night getting shit-faced in Zorro's, in the days when people with some degree of conversational skill still used to go there. Soon the discussion turned to the subject of 'X victim's' (as he shall be known)

desire to get into medical school.

At this point I would like you to cast your mind back and remember the tension that accompanied the impending release of your TER. At the time, there seemed little else of major importance in either your life or those of your contemporaries.

Thus it was decided the absolute best joke that could be played on any loser whom one might like to torture would be to ring them up and tell them their TER of 92 had been just enough to get them into Medical School at Newcastle University — a sufficiently obscure but believable institution.

It was soon easily decided "Cookie" was the obvious choice for the deed and thus unfolded what could be the best prank call of year 12.

"Herro! Herro!", yelled Cookie down the phone, obviously deciding that for maximum authenticity a dodgy Asian accent that made Barry Morris' bomb threat look plausible should be adopted. "Herro I'm rooking fo Meester X".

"Yes that's me..." came the suspicious voice from the other end of the phone.

"Ohhh good. Yes this is Swee Pung, the Departmental seclatary for medicine at Newcastle University. We just learised we made a mistake. We got one more prace fo a medicine student in the faculty"

"Wait a minute...how do I know you're not joking?" came the Inspector Clueso-like response.

"Oh no, this is not a joke! We just lealised that we made a mistake with our files. I'm sorting through the papers rate tonight and I lealised." At this point it must be noted that with people pissing themselves laughing in the background and general noise of

a night out in Civic, there seemed no way that anyone could ever fall for this crap — we were wrong.

"Mum! Mum! I got in! They made a mistake! Mum I made it to Newcastle!" At this point the call became seriously amusing because we were now joined with the overjoyed cries of X's mother as she chimed in with her congratulations and exclamations of support.

You could almost hear the tears of joy as they ran down his face. "So what do I do? Where do I go?"

"OK. Tomollow you go to the UAC office in Canbella, first thin in the morning OK. Then you come to Newcastle as soon as you can — you should fry here, don't waste time because you gotta enlol OK." Perhaps at was

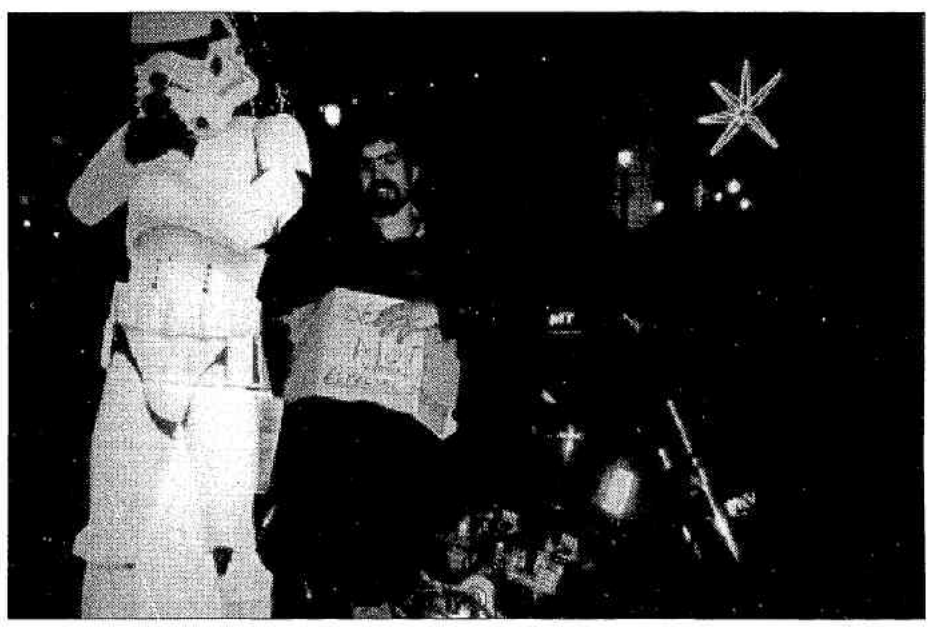
at this point that the background noise must have started to tickle X's suspicion bone because his Jessica Fletcher antennas seemed to raise for just a second. "So how can I tell that you're telling the truth?"

"OK. Well you go to UAC office in the morning and you see that I'm not rying OK."

"OK, then I will. Thanks. Bye."

The deal was done. X really did turn up that morning to the UAC office and argued with the woman behind the desk in disbelief as she told him she knew nothing of his plight. Later X relayed to us in sincere detail his shocking experience. "I reckon it was so-and-so", he told us with a glint of revenge in his eye. "Yeah Probably was", we all quietly agreed.

—ANON



**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL ELECTIONS 1997**  
**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are hereby called for election to the following offices and positions within The Australian National University Students' Association:

**President of the Association**  
**Education Officer of the Association**  
**General Secretary of the Association**  
**Social Officer of the Association**  
**Treasurer of the Association**  
**Twelve (12) General Representatives to the SRC**  
**Two (2) Faculty Representative positions to the FRC from each Faculty of the University**  
**One (1) Editor of *Woroni* (who may be an individual or a group of individuals)**

The successful candidates will serve for one year from 1 December 1997.

All ordinary members of the Association are eligible to nominate, second or be nominated for the positions of President, Education Officer, General Secretary, Social Officer, Treasurer, Editor of *Woroni*, and General Representative to the SRC. **The candidate, nominator and seconder for a position of Faculty Representative must all be enrolled in the relevant Faculty.**

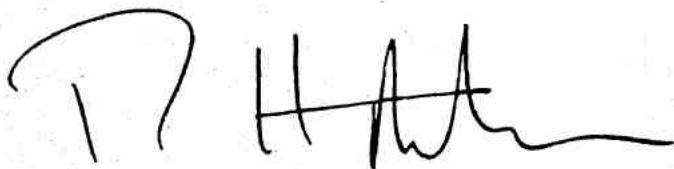
The period for lodgement of nominations will commence at 12.00 pm on Monday 18 August 1997 and cease at 4.00 pm on Monday 1 September 1997.

All nominations should be placed in the locked ballot box provided in the office of the Assistant Registrar (Council), between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm on any week day during the period in which nominations are open. This office is located on the second floor of the Chancery, Room 2.05.

All nomination forms must include the signature of the nominator, a seconder, and the nominee. Nomination forms are available from the office of the Assistant Registrar (Council) and the Association. Candidates in the election may indicate to the Returning Officer the group or team with which they are running, or that they are running as an independent, which will then appear on the voting paper beside their names.

Polling will be conducted between Tuesday 16 September 1997 and Friday 19 September 1997, at the following locations:

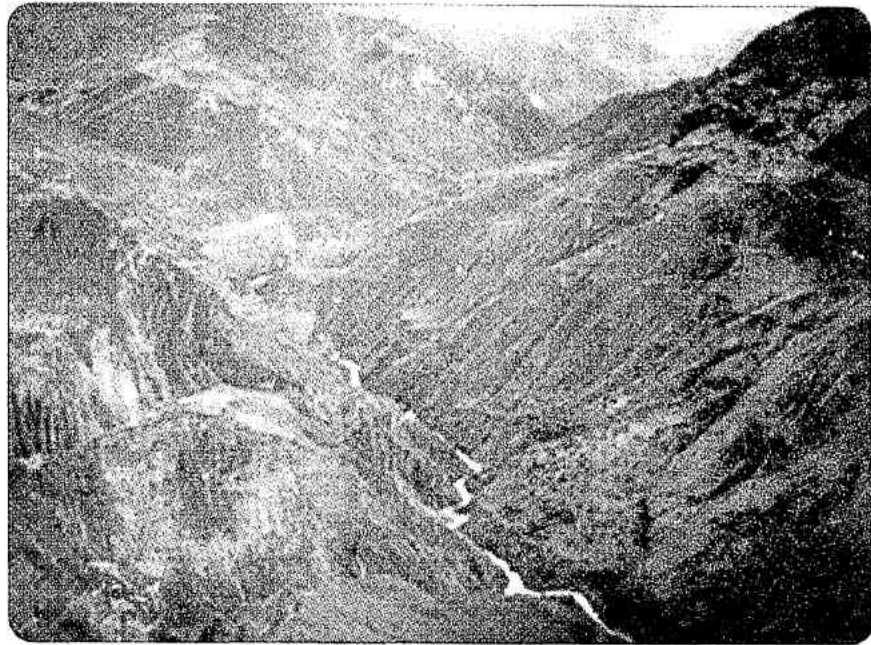
- **University Union**  
Tuesday, 16 September 1997                      1.30 pm - 6.30 pm  
Wednesday, 17 September 1997                11.00 am - 4.00 pm  
Thursday, 18 September 1997                 11.00 am - 4.00 pm  
Friday, 19 September 1997                    11.00 am - 4.00 pm
- **Chifley Library**  
Wednesday, 17 September 1997                4.30 pm - 7.30 pm
- **ITA Coffee Shop Courtyard**  
Tuesday, 16 September 1997                    11.00 am - 1.00 pm



**R H Arthur**  
**Registrar and Returning Officer**  
**The Australian National University**  
**8 August 1997**



travel



(above) Andean foothills that capture the soul and the imagination

## Getting high in the Andes

I felt like Indiana Jones. The sun had just risen over the forested peaks and sunlight fell among the ruins of the ancient Inca city of Macchu Picchu. We had just spent four days climbing through snow covered peaks, indigenous villages and stunning cloud forest to get there. This is South America.

It is hard to generalise about South America because, like Australia, it is incredibly diverse, but somehow even more so. For the tourist, travelling around can be difficult, frustrating, and confronting. I travelled through Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia where there is a large dose of indigenous cultures and 'Third World' development problems to add to the spectacle. Determination, patience and tolerance are required, and the rich experiences that can be had are well worth the effort.

Most people go to South America dreaming of seeing the Amazon, but in the end it is the mountains that usually get them. They got me. The Andes are huge, magnificent, racing to the sky, plastered to the horizon and patch-worked with fields of corn and snow. Sitting at 2500 metres above sea level, surrounded by cloud forest, Macchu Picchu is considered the balmy tropics of the Andes.

Most of the major towns and cities sit at around 3000 metres or above and are dry and frigid at best. The indigenous peoples of the Andes, predominately the Quechua, are little and robust and for good reason — tourists often suffer altitude sickness (which really, really sucks).

Sitting amid the peaks it is easy to see why the imagery of the mountain has left a deep cultural and psychological impact on the peoples of the Andes. The mountain symbolises Mother Earth (Pachamama), and the Virgin Mary (after the Spanish conquistadors

gained influence) in the exotic and ornate paintings of the colonial art schools and it is still used by modern South American painters to signify the emotion and passion of being Andean. It is difficult not to be swept away by the mountains.

If you're into rock climbing, particularly mountaineering, the Andes are the place to go. In Ecuador, only a few hundred kilometres away from the equator, there are



South America is a choose-your-own-adventure kind of place that appeals to the romantic and adventurous in all of us.

numerous large, snowcapped volcanoes begging to be climbed. They rise to above 5000 metres above sea level — climbing them is a test of endurance and stubborn will.

If it wasn't for the threat of an avalanche, I would have completed my climb (in the tradition of Scott of the Antarctic) of the most beautiful of volcanoes in Ecuador — Cotopaxi. It is a perfectly formed volcano, dusted in glorious white crunchy snow, and sitting under a magical ceiling of a starry sky on

its eastern slopes, I could see for miles over grassy plains to the next group of mountains. It was the stuff of addictions. The bum slide on the way down was also heaps of fun.

South America will constantly challenge your perceptions and expectations. Come prepared for a degree of inefficiency and disorder, and you will find a fantastic, if crowded, public transport system, phone service and postal system. Many people have a smattering of English and most people are patient enough with attempts at Spanish and the ubiquitous phrasebook.

Then again, when things are going well, some things don't. My hint would be to avoid visiting the Andes in the wet season, or risk being stranded in remote locations (as I was) because the roads are impassable. Travelling as a single woman also created some sticky situations — "where's your boyfriend? Aah, you don't have one? Hello! My name is Javier". Remember the scene in *Romeo and Juliet* when Tybalt, sexy as all hell, saunters across the screen to the rhythm of a lazy techno beat? Well, welcome to what South American men *think* they look like. The reality is somewhat closer to the cliché: they are sexist and machismo and maintain a joint collection of tits and arse blonde beer ads and paintings of Virgin Mary. They will hassle you out and if I was blonde I would seriously consider *not* travelling alone. It was with great joy that I learnt to say 'fuck off' in Spanish. But they are rarely dangerous (there is even the odd nice one), and the men mostly treat you like the freak show from the West, which of course you usually are.

South America is a choose-your-own-adventure kind of place that appeals to the romantic and adventurous in all of us. It doesn't disappoint.

—HANNAH PARRIS

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## Revenge of the Jidohanbaiki

One of the things that struck me about Japan when I first arrived was the number of vending machines here. *Jidohanbaiki*, literally 'automatic selling machines' are everywhere. But it was not only the sheer number of vending machines that surprised me, but also the range of goods that they sell. There are a lot more things sold here than just the cigarettes and junk food snacks that are sold in Australia. In Japan you can buy almost anything from ice cream to films and disposable cameras. When I was going for a walk around my neighbourhood I came across a machine that sold, of all things, pantyhose. It was on a street corner in a rather out-of-the-way area. It must be comforting to know that if one ever gets a run in one's hose, that there are always replacements available.

Even Japan's traditional and historical venues can't escape the onslaught of the vending machine. Actually this is where they seem most prevalent. At one temple I visited, there was literally 15 machines lined up in a row. There is a rumour that there is even one at the top of Hiroshima Castle. Sometimes it is quite off-putting to go to an ancient temple or shrine and be confronted with this symbol of the twentieth century. There you are marvelling at the architecture/garden/history of a temple when you turn the next corner and are jolted back to reality by the glowing, humming, unmistakable sight of a *jidohanbaiki*.

Other things that can be purchased from vending machines in Japan include: fresh flowers, hamburgers, magazines, milk, noodles, CDs, pornographic items, batteries and danish pastries. I have even heard reports of a machine in Tokyo that sells neckties. Mr Tanaka arrives at the office, after a night out drinking with his colleagues — he's not in the best of form. Feeling something is amiss, he looks down, oh God, he's forgotten his necktie, it's still on a futon somewhere. But no, don't panic, he can just pop down to the tie vending machine and pick up another. Whew!

The humble vending machine is being used a lot these days by cafeterias. Customers choose what they want, by inspecting the plastic models on display, then purchase a ticket from a vending machine. This removes the need for a cashier and the advantage for the customers is that they don't have to juggle a tray of food and their loose change at the register. However it does make the whole process rather impersonal.

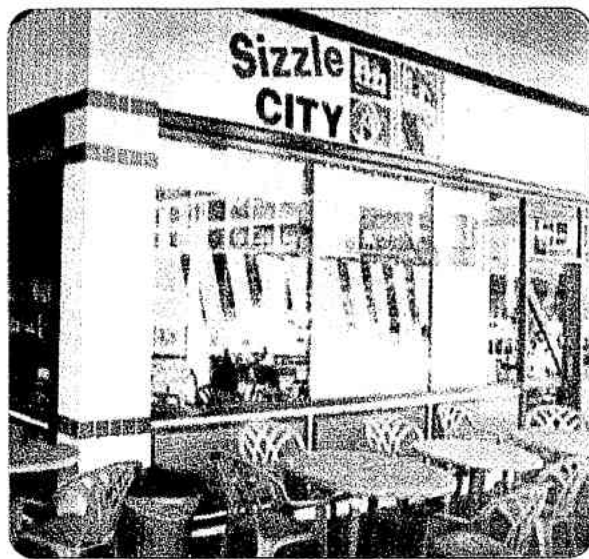
Vending machines often come to the rescue though. It is quite common in Japanese public toilets to have no toilet paper or paper towel/dryers to dry your hands. This can lead to a quite 'uncomfortable' situation for those people who forget their pocket tissues. Thank god, just outside the toilets at my local subway station is a vending machine that sells loo paper.

By far one of the best things that can be purchased from vending machines here in Japan is beer. What an innovation to have alcohol available from a machine. The ready availability of alcohol might seem to encourage underage drinking, but most Japanese youth under twenty would not dream of it. The vending machine is the equivalent to a discount liquor store at home. Drinks in clubs are exorbitantly priced so it is wise to have a few drinks before going out, and this is where the *jidohanbaiki* comes in handy. On the way to the train station you can stop off at one of the many vending machines along the way and have a drink or two, or you can even do a 'vending machine crawl'. There is however a catch to this seemingly heavenly scenario, the machines are locked at about 11pm, which is strange, because that is just about the time that most people are looking for a beer.

You learn after spending a period of time in Japan, there are many questions that seemingly have no answers in this country.

—DEB MARBURG

# food



(above) Sizzle City: don't be put off by the photos of plastic food out the front

## Sizzle City

**Address:** City Markets (entrance on Bunda St)  
**Phone:** 248 5399  
**Opening Hours:**  
 Mon-Thurs, Sat & Sun: 9.30-5.30pm  
 Friday: 9.30am-9pm  
**Average Price for a meal:**  
 \$5-\$7

## eating out

# Hot in the city

Sushi for breakfast — it's the obvious way to enjoy this small corner eatery in the City Markets, where the sushi is made fresh with raw fish each morning. And that's where we found ourselves, wiping the sleep from our eyes and enjoying the legendary friendly welcome (the owner Margaret's "Hello! How are you?") and service.

Sushi and miso soup is a great way to begin the day. As for the rest of the menu at Sizzle City, any time of the day appears to be a good one for *udon* noodle soup, which at only \$5.50 is a triumph of low cost cuisine, and fills the average stomach for several hours.

Udon is available in both vegetarian and seafood forms. Also good value is a large serving of fried mung bean noodles and vegetables (\$3.80), whose warm gelatinous textures are a treat, and the very salty but nutritious miso soup with seaweed and tofu pieces (\$1.50, or \$1 with every *bento*). 'Bento' boxes are the containers typical of Japanese

take-away cuisine.

Fast take-away food is what Sizzle City is all about, providing quality low-cost meals for people on the run, at work, or looking to laze lunch away in nearby Glebe Park.

*Yakitori*, tasty marinated chicken on a stick at \$1.50 apiece, and \$1 for the beef version, are excellent eating and value.

Customers can experience the combination of a Japanese subway strictly-standing-room-only *udon* bar and a Champs Elysée-style metropolitan vista out onto Bunda Street

Sushi, too, is extremely good value, being equal or superior to any in Dickson but half the price (\$6.80 for the most expensive).

If you want to try a bit of everything, there is a choice of two combination packages, combining tempura (deep-fried potato and other vegies in egg and flour batter), mung bean noodles, sushi (including those groovy rice-balls wrapped in a tofu hood), egg thingies, and other goodies.

Customers can experience the combination of a Japanese subway strictly-standing-room-only *udon* bar (here with benches added), and a Champs Elysée-style metropolitan vista out onto Bunda Street from the

indoor eating area.

We like to sit inside; although seating is limited, it renders an atmosphere that is decidedly 'elsewhere'; being busy, noisy, and aromatically humid. The kitchen is open to your gaze, so you can see most of what is prepared; service is extremely efficient and effusive. Margaret's establishment has done well in its two and a half years, and she is about to open a second bigger Sizzle City in that huge new building in Garema Place, next to Impact Records.

The ingredients? Raw salmon and tuna from Fyshwick, and dry stuff from Sydney's Tokyo Mart, prepared in a predominantly Korean style as typical Japanese and Korean fast food dishes.

Also provided is that potent wasabi paste, which the brave can lash across whatever takes their fancy — although recommended use is with caution. Green tea is simply made from a tea bag and served in polystyrene cups, but this evidently is part of what makes the Sizzling Service so damn quick. And cheap. Sizzle City well deserves its regular clientele.

—BRYAN ROCHELLE & DEBBIE HODGSON



# campus look



Anne is about to finish her honours year in Political Science. She is wearing her favourite boots, her mohair socks, gorgeous green homemade trousers (see buttons handpicked by Anne, featured above) and her striking padded silk jacket from Gorman House. All jewellery from China.

## eating in

# Brewing up a storm with Greg

Making beer at home may seem to many to be an impossible dream; a gentle art restricted to the select few. But *Woroni* is committed to breaking down the barriers that stand between you and your dreams. We prevailed upon 'Greg' to part with his very own (very secret) recipe.

### Equipment:

- A large plastic bucket (Greg's holds 20 litres) with an airtight lid
- Bottles

### Ingredients:

The ingredients for homebrewed beer could continue down the page *ad infinitum*, but the basic staples are:

- water
- malted barley (that you can buy prepackaged from supermarkets or specialty shops)
- sugar
- brewer's yeast.

### Here's How:

1. Put the sticky malted barley liquid in your bucket and fill it with water and sugar (you can substitute any glucose product for sugar eg: honey). The basic ratio is around 20 litres of water to 2.5 kg of malted barley to 1 kg of sugar.
2. It is at this stage that you would add any variations, bearing in mind that there is a huge variety of malted barleys available which will change the character of the beer you make.



(above) You can hold a homebrew party in your own backyard

Greg is very good at creating new varieties of beer to accompany different types of cuisine.

For example, his coriander and lime beer goes wonderfully with Thai; and his ginger beer is a refreshing summer's day thirst quencher.

It is possible to experiment with flavours and herbs etc.

3. Sprinkle the water/sugar/barley mixture with brewer's yeast which will ferment the mixture. It needs to be kept at a constant temperature between 21-27 degrees Celsius.

Greg keeps his in a bathroom.

4. Put the lid on the mixture and make sure it is airtight.

5. Let it ferment for around a week.

6. Once it has fermented, you can bottle it. For carbonated beer, put a little sugar in each bottle. Leave it for a couple of weeks and enjoy.

The limits to homebrew are where your imagination ends — but as Greg says, your homebrew is only as good as your cooking. Go forth and create.

**buying better**

**Basic black:  
putting pens to the test**

Being an anally retentive bunch of guys, we decided to road test the black pen. So we trekked our way to Belco newsagents and here is what we found.

**Staedtler Stick**

A traditional favourite for budget conscious students. The manufacturers of this fine pen, assume a certain level of expertise and dexterity in foregoing grip assistance and user instructions. This pen has been shown to be a nightmare for chronic chewers. The unyielding plastic lid sports a drainage hole at its tip, guaranteed to result in embarrassing saliva seepage throughout the pen body. It's design is understated and minimalist, but what is lacking in aesthetics is surely compensated for by an exotic brand name.

**Bic clic**

Designers at the Bic Institute have shied away from the showmanship and novelty that has characterised the latest in pen technology. The 'clic', through the clever marketing ploy embodied in the naming of this model, may have much to do with its mass appeal.

This pen is far from being chewer friendly, with the clic apparatus highly susceptible to damage, thus rendering the implement useless.

**Pentel K106 Hybrid roller**

A combination of ballpoint and rolling writer, which is waterproof, fade resistant and available in 10 exciting colours! Performance was quite impressive, but fine superior quality and middle range price tag is not reflected in its styling, which is reminiscent of your standard Bic. The exceptions are the hemispherical

stopper, which provides a challenge to the most seasoned sucker (you just know that you can get it out somehow), and the cushioned pen-tip protection system located in the lid. Highly recommended.

**Pilot BPS-GP**

With a name like a brand of aircraft fuel, this pen appeals to the revhead in all of us. Factory rubber grip provides the ultimate in handling and control. This operates in conjunction with the unique tungsten carbide tip to ensure that this pen is a no slip, non stick wonder. With all these features, it's easy to understand why the designers didn't bother to make it look any good. Included in the package is a care label to maximise fuel efficiency and tip longevity. On the downside, it writes like shit.

**Artline Ergoline**

This pen heralds a new era of pen usage, being styled without reference to current notions of aesthetics and efficiency. Ergonomic it may claim to be, but it fails to enhance one's writing experience in any manner. Its extra wide body design may be ideal for the dexterously handicapped among us, but in the final analysis, despite attempts to streamline the faux pewter exterior, it strikes me as the Volvo of writing tools.

**Uniball Eye Micro**

The deluxe model, purporting to be worth 9 Staedtlers. To really impress fellow students, leave the price tag on. It's appearance is a little overstated with the predictable grey/silver colour scheme and a number of superfluous gauge-like markings. However some concessions to good



(left) pens — the pocket sized phallic symbol

taste have been incorporated, and the pen's performance was excellent, making it fit to be more than an ornamental piece in anyone's collection.

—MOLLY SELDA & POLLY GRAGON

| Brand              | Price  | Comment  |
|--------------------|--------|--|
| Staedtler Stick    | \$0.45 | For the budget buyer — beware saliva seepage         |
| Bic Clic           | \$0.85 | Bic is chic, but not for the orally fixated          |
| Pentel K106 Hybrid | \$2.15 | A strange hybrid creation but of sturdy stock        |
| Pilot BPS-GP       | \$2.45 | A sensual wonder, not good on the visuals it creates |
| Artline Ergoline   | \$2.95 | It's ergonomic... and does little of value           |
| Uniball Eye Micro  | \$4.40 | Fit for the mantelpiece                              |

**Working for peanuts**

Amanda Vanstone recently told us that any student would be foolish to turn down a job at McDonalds. In contrast, the ANU has regulations governing how many hours a student can work for pay while retaining full-time enrolment — a relic from past days when education was considered a full-time occupation itself. The reality remains that most students are forced to work as it becomes more difficult to qualify for independent Austudy, pay the rent, and keep up with the rising costs of reading bricks, lab charges and the odd up-front fee.

It is tricky, though, to negotiate the Catch 22 of student survival: while we need to earn to live, if we earn too much it rebounds to offset the amount of Austudy we can get, or rent assistance we can claim. The HECS repayment threshold has fallen, so students with poorly paying jobs are being caught by the tax net much more quickly. The alternative for many is to accept cash-in-hand employment, with the advantage of keeping the tax department and social security offices in the dark.

'Unofficial' jobs aren't that rare, especially as students tend to find work in the retail and hospitality industries. But there is a trade-off involved: the employers are evading tax and accountability by offering cash-in-hand, while possibly paying less than the award rate. Employees gain an unrecorded income, but give up the protection that awards can offer, as well as membership of the relevant union.

How significant is this? After all, an important underpinning of the new Workplace Relations Act (WRA) is the weakening of union influence, with an emphasis on individualised agreements and certified agreements that operate independently of union participation. The Act is ridden with the affirmation of the right not to join a union, with closed shop arrangements removed and unions' rights of entry into workplaces sharply limited. In practice, it is much more difficult for unions to legally intervene as 'interested parties' to disputes, as unions are often required to have at least one of their members employed in the workplace that concerns them, before they can represent the employees' interests there. With bosses discouraging their workers' recourse to the unions, some workers fear discrimination if they are named as the one who invited the union delegate inside. Workers without a history of collective organisation are more likely to trade off union-won benefits in the framework of individual contracts, and are encouraged to do so.

However, even though individual contracts are on the rise, awards remain the benchmark for Australian Workplace Agreements (which are negotiated between employers and employees according to the WRA). That is, a Workplace Agreement, in order to be approved by the Industrial Relations Commission, has to be compared with the award that would otherwise apply. If there is no overall disadvantage to the workers, or if the disadvantage doesn't contravene

the public interest, the agreement will get the go-ahead. But what defines the public interest?

Here's the catch. If the reduction of basic award benefits are 'necessary as part of a strategy for addressing a short term business crisis', then 'public interest' may dictate that workers tighten their belts quite significantly. But when frugality is sometimes only rewarded with redundancy, in the case of BHP Newcastle's steelworks, it is a bitter pill to swallow. The idea of the whole community benefiting from the sacrifices made by workers in economically hard times seems a bit of a farce, resulting not in increased pay or more jobs, but 'flexibility' for employers to guarantee continued profit.

Unions are being sidelined by the law, and given that the retail and hospitality unions aren't the most militant or well-organised, who can be surprised if students take the deals they can get? It is important to remember, though, that just because you're not on the books doesn't mean you're not an employee by law. In the same way that de facto couples gain legal benefits of marriage, the reality of the work you do for someone creates an employment relationship recognised by the courts. So if something goes wrong on the job, such as unfair dismissal or injury, your employer's conduct is still subject to the scrutiny of the law. How far it will protect you, though, is another story.

—LANA NADI

# CULTURE

I'm your fool • it. a



Are you one of those people who reads the end of a book before the beginning? Well, the net has now made it possible to ruin movies in the same way, through the creation of a number of net sites that scoop the big movie news, and tell you what's hot and what's not before the movie's on the streets. The Big Faceless Corporations are going head to head with thousands of movie geeks, battling over scoops on forthcoming blockbusters like *Titanic*, *Contact* and *Superman Reborn*. Intrepid *Woroni* reporter ROBIN SHORTT hacked his way into the seedy underworld of entertainment to get hold of movie geek leader Harry Knowles, and talk movies, money, and freedom of speech.

“Free Speech on the Net” (tm) has again become an issue with Communications Minister Richard Alston's recent commitment to censoring Internet service providers. Alston cited pornography as his main concern; other issues that have gained attention include the proliferation of much Web-based right wing white supremacist literature.

But one issue which has escaped widespread attention doesn't have to do with Internet Nazis having sex with animals (which is a pity, because it would have made this article a lot more fun to research). It's the phenomenon of “scooping” test screenings of movies.

Large movie studios have for a long time been using the “test screening” to determine the final cut of a film. A movie is shown to an “average” audience, often lured directly off the street. The audience's reaction to the film and their suggestions as to how it can be changed may then be adopted when it is finally released. Movies altered in this way are as diverse as *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, *Fatal Attraction* and Cronenberg's *The Fly*.

Up until even a few years ago, these screenings and their results were kept relatively secret. Now, however, the Internet provides a way for information about screenings to be available worldwide. This has led to the setting up of several WWW sites that collect and present these scoops, not to mention updates on movies in production from “spies” on the sets and even the availability of screenplays (such as those for *Alien: Resurrection* and *Starship Troopers*) before the movies in question are even released.

One such site is *Ain't It Cool News*, run by Texas-based journalist Harry Knowles. Those who are unlucky enough to be up at 8am on weekdays may have heard Knowles on the “AM” program on Radio National recently, talking about (wouldn't you know) Free Speech on the Net. Knowles' website has attracted all sorts of attention, with pieces on it appearing in everything from *People* to *GQ* (“I am about as far removed from *GQ* as a human can be”, says Knowles, who you can picture as a more pleasant version of the proprietor of the “Android's Dungeon” from *The Simpsons*). Quentin Tarantino refers to him as “the Wolf Blitzer of the Internet”. More or less daily, Knowles presents news gleaned from hundreds of (often anonymous) sources. However, he's not some rumour monger posting everything he's told:

“Reliable sources continue, the false sources last only a couple of reports before they are found out. Now I have hundreds of spies. I do have a database of who provided what, when and did it come true. This helps me to establish truth from fiction. Also I tend to have an awful large amount of scripts, which help me to give these sources some tests of truth. If they pass, they become reliable spies, if not they don't get another shot.”

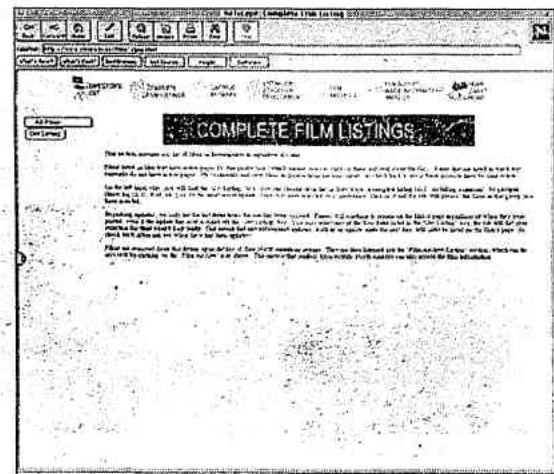
Scooping *Superman Reborn* and the Coen Brothers' *The Big Lebowski* is unlikely to attract the wrath of Richard Alston and Fred Nile. However, Knowles has come to the attention of several Big Faceless Corporations (well known for their enthusiasm for freedom of

## Sites of interest



**Ain't It Cool News** ([www.aint-it-cool-news.com/coolnews.html](http://www.aint-it-cool-news.com/coolnews.html)) is updated more or less daily. It includes news on movies in production and test screenings, and will be one of the first to post a given piece of news. The AP of the Net.

**Coming Attractions** ([www.corona.bc.ca/films/alpha.html](http://www.corona.bc.ca/films/alpha.html)) is more like a newspaper archive; as Knowles puts it, "The largest difference is 'they are organized.'" News is indexed by film title and covers a wider range of films than Knowles; the drawbacks are that Knowles gets the news first and CA post any news they receive, reliable or not (although all doubtful reports are noted as such).



speech; witness the behaviour of the tobacco concerns and the "McLibel" trial). Notable among these is the Warner Brothers movie studio. WB and director Joel "Shitmaker" Schumacher targeted Knowles when he reported that early test screenings indicated *Batman and Robin* was pretty dire. Schumacher claimed the reports were not giving his film a fair shot at the box office (presumably reasoning that if people knew it was fucking awful, they wouldn't see it. No shit.) He even went so far as to blame "an unpoliced Internet" for the reports, which is probably a fair indicator of his commitment to freedom of speech.

More recently, *Entertainment Tonight* presented a story about "Net rumour mongering", which included a glimpse of Knowles' site (the story was actually about stars' private lives, which Knowles does not delve into but *ET* is known for butting in on). Coincidentally, Warner Brothers gave *ET* an exclusive interview with Arnold Schwarzenegger the very same episode...

Is Schumacher right in his claim that Knowles has a vendetta against him? Does Knowles have a responsibility to the studios in not fucking up their films' making money? "I have a responsibility to the truth, as do all true news reporters," he says. "Because I operate in the entertainment industry this does not give me the right to lie to my audience or keep them in the dark. Thus far this summer the people I cite for reviews have been right about 90% of the time. One nut can't sink the film. If the film is good, it will find an audience. Also, I report the pros and cons, then in my own reviews, I give the final version according to me personally."

He also points out that "I've provided advance looks at some 30 different features, and it seems as long as the word is positive, they love me."

Films for which "the word is positive" include John Woo's action epic *Face/Off*, James Cameron's \$250-million-plus *Titanic* and the movie based on Todd MacFarlane's *Spawn* comic book. *Ain't It Cool News* focuses on reports from science fiction, horror and action movies, though this does not reflect any prejudice of Knowles: "I love all film. All genres. The reason I seem to focus on those genres is because they tend to have large budgets, casts and crews. Which means more mouths that can talk." Knowles himself has an encyclopaedic knowledge of movies, from Shinya Tsukamoto's sex/death masterpiece *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* to *It's a Wonderful Life* (*Ain't It Cool News* suspended operations for a day when Knowles posted tributes to the recently-deceased Robert Mitchum and James Stewart).

Barring being shut down by Warner Brothers thugs, Knowles' operation is only going to get bigger. A recent tip on a test screening of *Titanic* in the Minneapolis/ St Paul area posted on his website mobilized a small army of 250 "geeks" covering all the cinemas in the area (25 made it in, and reviews were on the website the next day). Knowles points out that his site, with an audience of "125,000 a month" is potentially great word-of-mouth for smaller films, whose crews he says "should be talking to me".

The big question now concerns the prequels for *Star Wars*, currently in production. Will the ultrasecretive George Lucas (who kept the ending of *The Empire Strikes Back* secret to the extent of having the actor playing Darth Vader say "Obi-Wan Kenobi is your father" to Mark Hamill on the set and only dubbing in the right line at the last minute) manage to keep them secret from all the geeks on the Net, particularly Knowles himself?

"I have to pick me in a contest between me and George Lucas. However, I will not allow the films to be spoiled for all the fans. There is a greater responsibility to the fans' desire for continued mystery. I have major news and images from the Prequels. You will not see these appear on the site or anywhere else, because I realise what sort of damage they would cause. Of course this is just my opinion. George should win, but my network is awfully extensive."



(above) Nicholas Cage in *Face/Off* and (right) the risen *Titanic* — which is the bigger disaster?

## Movies getting scooped

*Spawn*, based on Todd MacFarlane's comic book, has attracted rave reviews from those who have seen test screenings. Ultraviolent, special effects heavy and very faithful to the comic. With Michael Jai White as *Spawn* and John Leguizamo as *Clown*.

*Titanic*, James Cameron's ludicrously expensive love story set on the maiden voyage of the eponymous ship of the same name. Very good reviews. With Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet.

*Face/Off*. Hong Kong action legend John Woo's new movie, with John Travolta and Nicolas Cage as cop and terrorist who swap faces and shoot each other. Getting good reviews *everywhere* now, but Knowles was first.

*Contact*. Jodie Foster deciphers message from outer space. Based on Carl Sagan's novel. Apparently a real winner.

*Eaters of the Dead*. Michael Crichton's story of an Arabic prince hanging around with a bunch of Vikings. Arnold Schwarzenegger is rumoured to play one of the Vikings.

*The X Men*. Bryan (*The Usual Suspects*) Singer is set to direct this adaptation of the comic from an Ed Solomon screenplay. Marvel artists are doing the set design, which is nice... but Van Damme as Wolverine?

Reliable sources continue, the false sources last only a couple of reports before they are found out. Now I have hundreds of spies. I do have a database of who provided what, when and did it come true. This helps me to establish truth from fiction. Also I tend to have an awful large amount of scripts, which help me to give these sources some tests of truth. If they pass, they become reliable spies, if not they don't get another shot.

# reviews

## music

★★★★

**BROWN ALBUM**

**Primus**

*Interscope records*



Primus is the type of band that can make one person laugh hysterically, and another cry out in disgust. It can make one bass player jump on his bass in frustration, and another drop his jaw in awe. On this album, the bass playing is as dumbfounding as ever, and Larry's guitar is weird as always. This combination makes good Primus soup, far better than the stuff they served us on their last album.

As far as comparison goes, I personally cannot pass up *Sailing the Seas of Cheese* as Primus' best, although this album comes close. Les and his new found drummer, "Brain" (who unfortunately isn't as good as

their former drummer Herb Alexander), have combined talents to create an album with richer rhythms than any before. In this sense, *Pork Soda* is the closest comparison. Both these albums make me feel like farmer Joe at a bush-dance: I feel like stomping my boots and shaking VB bottle tops on a stick.

This album is a trek into the bizarre. You can witness the return of Sathington Willoughby, go to the camelback cinema and watch Bondy's latest Golden Boy, take Arnie to Bob's Party Time Lounge, and afterwards you can go home and shake hands with beef.

—JUM

★★★★

**THE MOLLUSK**

**Ween**

*Electr*



My corrections of some commonly held misconceptions about Ween:

1. Ween were not one hit wonders (remember "Push the Li'l Daisies"). Instead they possess much sought after cult status.
2. Dean and Gene Ween are not really brothers (and that's not even their real names!).

For *The Mollusk*, Dean and Gene Ween had a plan. Go to a coastal town in winter and make a record.

They started in September of 1995 by renting a beach front property on Long Beach Island (New Jersey) and sitting beside the sea with a guitar and a tape recorder writing nautical ballads. The coastal location caused the fictitious Ween brothers more than a few problems. Like a scene out of *Withnail and I*, the lack of heating meant that Dean and Gene were relying on a combination of their gear, an open oven door and a lot of alcohol to keep themselves warm. They decided to take a break and went to Nashville to record *12 Golden Country Greats* — a top album for anyone into a bit of twang. On their return, the locks had been changed, the pipes had burst (so flooding the house), and they were in the middle of a blizzard. They found a new studio, only to be forced out by noise complaints from Hare Krishnas.

The final result was well worth the effort. Anyone who liked "Push the Li'l Daisies" will be impressed all over again. The voice effects are back, and the subject matter is still just as abstract, although with a definite nautical twist. The tracks range from pub tunes like "The Blarney Stone" to the play schoolesque "I'm Dancing In The Show Tonight". People who thrive on quirky and kitsch will probably like this album for all the wrong reasons. But if you find yourself in Bateman's Bay in July, then this could definitely cheer you up.

—STEVE ARNISON

★★★★

**TRANSMISSION**

**The Tea Party**

*Polygram*



*Transmission* is not the Tea Party's best. *Winter Solstice* admittedly, is almost impossible to top, but as long as the Tea Party are trying, the albums are probably worth the money. The Tea Party are one of few contemporary bands that feature acoustic guitar as a fill in intros and solos; it fits beautifully and gives the band a very intense sound. As they are only a three piece, the diversity of music produced, particularly from the acoustic guitar, is very impressive.

The current single, "Temptation" (which has been shortened for radio) appears in full as the opening track. It is strong, and one of the more memorable tracks on the album. There are still a couple of nice warm and fuzzy ballads for the Bon Jovi fans, including "Release". Like *Winter Solstice*, many tracks crescendo from the humble beginnings of a love song into something more agitated. This is not unique to The Tea Party, but they do it very well.

Fans will be pleased to know that The Tea Party retain their badder-than-thou attitude throughout this album; they have the rock star mentality and they are sticking to it. I believe they are also competing for the Dylan MacKay award for the world's smallest facial hair. This aside, *Transmission* is actually a very good album, crisp and precise,

their talent as performers cannot be questioned.

—NICK SHAW

★★★★

**RANDOM**

**Various**

*Shock Records*

Before this review actually gains momentum, I think it fair to warn you that *Random* is a tribute to Gary Newman. Whilst it is a very good album, it is still a tribute album — an album genre notorious for offending purist fans and allowing bands with small (or medium) followings to rub shoulders with one or two A-list recording artists whilst riding the coat-tails of someone who had more musical influence than they. Unfortunately, what seems like the perfect opportunity to reinterpret and rebuild already great songs often degrades into dull covers with little or no imagination — remember the Hendrix tribute album?

Thankfully, one thing the *Random* album isn't missing is imagination. Gary Numan's songs of paranoia and the blending of man and machine lend themselves well to the industrial/ electronica bands found here (such as *Towering Inferno's* excellent *Metal*), and even the anomalies (for example Matt Sharp, Damon Albarn with "we have a technical") handle themselves with great aplomb. A quick rundown of some of the other artists show the true heart of the album though — St Etienne (with an incredible version of "stromtrooper in drag"), Gravity Kills, EMF, The Orb, PWEI (Yay!), even Republica put in a decent turn — and these are just some of the more recognisable names. Indeed, one of the album's strong points is the sheer number of tracks (26 spread over two, hour long disks), guaranteeing that at least several tracks catch your ear, allowing the listener to become more comfortable with some of the less accessible tracks.

Obviously, this is an album for those more inclined to samples, drum loops, and noise with their aural intake — which just means that you should turn the bass and volume up.

—DANIEL HADSON

★★★★

**BEYOND THE TURNTABLE**

**DJ Beats 2**

*Sony*



"The voyage continues into the next generation; 15 DJ's have been chosen to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors on DJ Beats 1"

So reads the inside cover of DJ Beats 2, and that could summarize the CD, though I'll add a little more. The CD is a compilation of some great DJs doing the things that they do over 12 tracks. You may have heard



some of these hammering tracks on the dance floor, but for those not so familiar with this music (where have you been for the last 10 years?) this would be a great introduction; from funky house to slamming techno, you will receive a wide range of variation. For those in the know, the CD include mixes by such DJs as Ken Jensen (some of you older ravers may remember him from *The Base*); Nik Fish (This is a good indication of what to expect from him in the future); Peewee Ferris (One of the best DJs in Australia, matched up against Darren Bria); and a pumping number from Brisbane's JEN-E with a track called "Close Encounters" (Believe me, this one goes off).

To round off, this is a good CD with some of Australia's premier DJs letting it all go for 77 groovy minutes. Go buy it, you know you want to.

—DANIEL HADSON

★★★

**THE NATURAL LIFE**

**Yazz**

**Warner Bros**



The new album by Yazz, *The Natural Life*, is a smooth bit of electro-reggae that, whilst dated and over produced, still has enough complexity to stop just short of being a "UB40 do the greatest hits of the Casio keyboard" effort. This album is in pretty safe territory from the chick that burnt herself into the subconscious of most people who were growing up in the late eighties with the double hits of "Stand up for Your Love Rights" and the pop-perfect "The Only Way is Up". With those two hits Yazz looked like becoming the new, slightly brindled Kylie. I must admit that it was a shock when I found out at the age of 14 that the blonde, shaved head Yazz was actually black, but it all makes perfect sense now though because in *The Natural Life* Yazz seems to be making a definite attempt to self-consciously reaffirm her black identity. For instance there is no "thankyou list" on this album; that tradition has instead been replaced with a "much RESPECT" credit (her capitalisation). And where has her trademark haircut gone? Replaced, I'm sorry to say by a dodgy pseudo afro.

Anyway, as self-conscious and amusing as all this "yo brother" stuff is, there are some highlights of white reggae pop to be found here. "Never Can Say Goodbye" is reasonably pacy and the first three tracks are showcases for Yazz's honey-sweet voice. Her cover of Bob Marley's "I'm Still Waiting" is good, but the most inventive use of beats and newer electronic sounds is to be found on "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" — probably the album's highlight. Otherwise this album treads rather familiar territory, which is a shame because Yazz did once have my genuine respect as a performer, and an innovative hair stylist.

—BRENDAN SHANAHAN

**books**

★★★★

**FALLING LEAVES**

**Adeline Yen Mah**

**Penguin**

**\$16.95**



Usually preferring a good piece of fiction to a biography, I opened *Falling Leaves* half expecting to be disappointed. A friend had recommended it to me, and actually lent me the book because she insisted I would love it. My skepticism proved totally unfounded, and my friend absolutely right — *Falling Leaves* is a memorable book.

Adeline Yen Mah tells her own story in a sincere, unpretentious and endearing fashion. Her simple, honest style combined with the inherently interesting story of a girl in a family and a society where males were blatantly favoured, together create a fascinating and unusual tale.

Adeline, the youngest of five children and the least adored by her parents or siblings, tells the story of her struggle to make something of herself against all odds. Her inability to comprehend such qualities as malice and jealousy in others wins the immediate sympathy and liking of the reader. Throughout the traumas of long years under the thumb of a predatory and literally evil step-mother, Adeline is supported only by a few friends and relatives on the way. The touching tale of her intimacy with her kind aunt is a highlight of Adeline's life, and consequently, of the story. Without anger, spite or blame, Adeline brings the reader into a world where life is tough and competitive for all, but for women who desire to live an intellectual or professional life, almost impossible. She weaves into her story many admirable people who have touched her life, including her dignified and successful Grandmother, her sympathetic and kind-hearted aunt, and her loving Grandfather, who is bewildered by the massive changes that created, over a short period of time, the bustling, competitive phenomenon that is Hong Kong. Adeline contrasts these characters with those of her weak and easily led father, her idle, jealous older sister, her lazy, mean-spirited brothers, and most particularly, her vain and malicious stepmother, whose will comes to dominate all of their lives. Adeline's story is one of bewilderment at never being able to understand why she was so hated by her step-mother, and therefore by the rest of her weak-willed family. She spends her years, her ambitions and her

dreams building a self to impress them, but to the end they remain dissatisfied with her as a daughter, sister and person.

Unloved by her own family, Adeline's life is a struggle. It is only her faith in her self, and the unfailing support of a few precious loved ones, that lets her remain a person unembittered by the harsh trials of her youth and early adulthood.

May's tale is touchingly told, and I would recommend it to anyone. It's the most genuine, unaffected story I have read for a long time, and it is made all the more poignant by its biographical nature.

—EMMA WOOD

★★★★

**LIVES OF THE MONSTER DOGS**

**Kirsten Bakis**

**Sceptre**

**\$19.95**



This odd novel "unfolds like a rich, resonant dream that you can't stop thinking about". Or at least, that is the extravagant claim of the *New York Times Book Review*. The *New York Daily News* says that *Lives of the Monster Dogs* "makes most other first novels look like self absorbed pap". And the phenomenon of the raving critic extends even past New York! — even in cynical Chicago they're heralding this novel as "half mad, half poetic", "One of those rare, ambitious novels with so many ideas it can't adequately do justice to them all". Perhaps this is the most accurate assessment of this strange satire/ memoir/ fantasy that has swept critics away into mindless enthusiasm — *Lives of the Monster Dogs* is so full of bursting with ideas and energy and furious literariness that one puts in down exhausted, confused, and perhaps a little lost.

The plot of the novel is fantastically tempting. One November night in 2008, a helicopter deposits one of the so called Monster Dogs in New York, a large Malamute walking on hind legs, with gloved hands and a mechanical voice box. This elegant creature wears a top hat with his nineteenth century Prussian military uniform, and speaks English with a hint of clipped German. He is Ludwig van Sacher, and he and the dogs that he brings with him become the toast of fashionable New York; rich, stately and utterly mysterious. Told from the point of view of human (and rather frustrating) student journalist Cleo Pira, *Lives of the Monster Dogs* is both a memoir to the fantastic creatures, and a chronicle to the dogs' own attempts to make sense of their purpose and creation and inevitable demise. In the process, one finds oneself looking at the human condition through the gaze of an alien objectivity.

But *Lives of the Monster Dogs* never quite makes it to literary fever pitch, and rests so

totally in ideas that it misses the flair and style that might give it more bulk. It's frightening to say this in the face of the adulation of the esteemed *New York Times*, but *Lives of the Monster Dogs* at moments descends into plain silliness. *Lives of the Monster Dogs* is a good fun read, and I can't wait to read the next story that Kirsten Bakis deigns to spin. Just be wary of those effusive American critics.

—PENELOPE SACHER

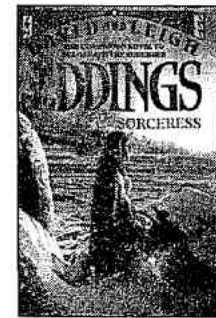
★★

**POLGARA THE SORCERESS**

**David and Leigh Eddings**

**Harper Collins**

**\$34.95**



Mmmm... David Eddings. Refuge of every lonely acne infested D&D playing science nerd for the last fifteen years. Also refuge for (lonely acne infested) adult women who read *The Belgariad* or *The Malloreon* or whatever the other ones were for the tenth time whenever feeling a little down and in the need of the comfort that only the easy banter and endless cliché of Eddings can provide. I'm sure that Eddings knows all about us easy targets, and is determined to make as much money out of one idea as he possibly can. Hence his dodgy spin offs from *The Belgariad* and *The Malloreon*, namely *Belgarath the Sorcerer* and, hot off the press, *Polgara the Sorceress*.

In case anyone needs reminding, Belgarath and Polgara, Sorcerer and Sorceress, are ancient father and daughter who guarded the royal Rivan line for five thousand years to bring to fruition a prophecy and a conflict between a good and an evil purpose in the universe. Such a guardianship involves love, death and lots of sorcery, which culminates in the ultimate battle between good guy (Garion) and bad God (Torak).

I was hoping for the usual glorious (and mindless) escapism that Eddings usually invites, but, as with *Belgarath the Sorcerer*, I was a little disappointed. The narrative structure is deeply irritating, and totally detracts from the joy of Eddings' easy banter, with Polgara constantly addressing her audience with anything from self righteous little comments to handy household hints. And it's all just a little bit tired, and pathetic and boring (although that might be the perspective of a twenty year old reading books that were designed for those innocents in their early teens).

This is an OK holiday read for closet Eddings fans, but there is always the danger of disillusion in the realisation that Eddings is not the literary genius that you once thought he was. Or maybe that was just me...

—PENELOPE SACHER

★★★

**GREAT AUSTRALIAN BITES**  
**Dave Warner (Ed)**  
 Fremantle Arts Centre Press  
 \$14.95



With a selection of short stories from many and various Australian darlings, *Great Australian Bites* delivers exactly what contributor HG Nelson promises, and has to be "the perfect companion for a groaning hotplate of freshly slaughtered Australian sweet meats on a summer's night when the friends lob in and want to be entertained on your patio". This is an eclectic collection of Australian personalities and humours, and there is almost necessarily something for everyone. The collection passes from the poignant in Bruce Beresford's memories of his dying father; through the lighthearted wistfulness of Santo Cilauro; to the hearty lewdness of everyone's favourite Skyhook, Greg Macainsh.

There are weaknesses in this collection, some of which stem from the fact that few of the contributors to this collection are actually authors, and a dull story is not helped out by an utterly distracting and endlessly frustrating snazzy layout; but the weak links in the chain are compensated for by the integrity and strength of the tougher stories, and the insights given into the private lives of our big name Australians.

One feels almost bound to like this book by virtue of the fact that to insult it would be to insult something of the Aussie in all of us. There's something wonderful in the realisation that some busy famous person has seen fit to write a short story about Canberra, and notices all the same things that you've noticed from the bus window on the way to uni every day.

—PENELOPE SACHER



★★★★

**THE WELL**  
 DIRECTED BY SAMANTHA LANG  
 Electric Shadows  
 Rated M

Adapted from the novel by Elizabeth Jolley, *The Well* brings to life a tale of freedom and dependence shattered by the isolation of the Australian bush. The story's imagery is powerful and the acting displayed by both Miranda Otto and Pamela Rabe make this film a key candidate for the AFI's best picture and actor awards.

A life on an isolated property without a

mother and in the desert of her father's company has brought Hester [Pamela Rabe] to her emotional knees. Her existence is nothing more than function; keeping the house in order, waiting out her life and forever looking from within and never out. The key to Hester's freedom is in the figure of newly hired house hand, Katherine [Miranda Otto], and the death of her father. No sooner has her father died than his dogs are dispatched, a new car purchased and the property sold.

The landscape in *The Well* entwines and captures its two main characters, Hester and Katherine, gradually isolating them within each others company. Picnics amongst hills strewn with granite boulders firmly plant the dreams of escape and passionate rebirth for both. While Katherine's youthful sexuality and juvenile flippancy towards life leads the two on a spending spree, Hester clumsily explores the vitality of freedom, excitement and the reliving of her youth.

Hester and Katherine's life in the cottage becomes haunted by a night's tragedy and the fabric of the new friendship is torn as each tries to sway its direction. 'Love, Death, Deception' is an apt sub-title for *The Well*. Director Samantha Lang's debut feature is an incredibly powerful piece of Australian cinema and one that has assured her place as one of Australia's finest.

—ROBERT UMPHELBY

★

**FATHERS' DAY**  
 Directed by Ivan Reitman  
 Greater Union  
 Rated M

In unlikely roles the last film featuring both Robin Williams and Billy Crystal was the four hour version of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, promoted as the greatest tragedy in the English language.

The pair's latest offering is *Fathers' Day*; probably the greatest tragedy in cinematic language.

From the opening credit sequence of cutesy childhood photos overdubbed with an appalling post-Beatles Paul McCartney tune you can't help feeling that the same over-emotional sentiment and predictable gags that led to the downfall of *Parenthood* and *Look Who's Talking Too* are also at play here.

*Fathers' Day* is a Hollywood formula comedy about lawyer Jack Lawrence (Billy Crystal) and writer Dale Putley (Robin Williams) who are both told that they are the father of their mutual ex-girlfriend's 16 year old son, Scott. Scott's a geeky little pratt who rebelliously runs away from home to follow the US tour of the heavy metal rock band Sugar Ray. The boy's unflattering photograph wasn't enough to deter Jack and Dale from temporarily leaving their professions and commencing a trans-American search and rescue. They are driven partly by guilt for not having helped raise the child and partly by rivalry as, amazingly, both desperately try to

prove they are the 'real' father of the ugly kid.

The following chase results in a tiresome sequence of comic situations, the best of which shows Dale getting dry-rooted on stage by the lead singer of Sugar Ray as he attempts to get information from the angry crowd about the whereabouts of his 'son'.

Meanwhile, a series of throwaway intercuts reveal that Scott's true biological father commences a search of his own but tragically gets trapped in an over-turned porta-loo. The inclusion of this scene provided the writers with an endless source of poo-jokes that kept the under-14-year-olds in the audience very happy.

In short, *Fathers' Day* turned out to be nothing more than a giant ad for Pepsi cola with no less than three lengthy product placement scenes; Robin Williams drinking a can of Pepsi, Billy Crystal drinking from a Pepsi cup and both of them standing beneath a huge Pepsi billboard. Well, production money had to come from somewhere.

In a movie about dysfunctional parenting, *Fathers' Day* could well have profited from the odd dysfunctional sex scene.

—JACKSON PELLOW

★★★★

**CON AIR**  
 Directed by Jerry Bruckheimer  
 Greater Union  
 Rated M

Just a quick pre-review survey: a hypothetical, if you will. You have just single-handedly succeeded in foiling the escape of an entire plane of psychos. Having already survived certain death on at least three occasions today, do you now think: (a) "Well, thank Christ I got out of that one alive, shall I perhaps go and say hello to my wife and child who I have not seen for seven years?", or (b) "Hmm: a couple of the maniacs have gotten away: think I'll steal that motorbike and follow them, placing myself in mortal danger a good three or four more times?" See, I'd probably go for the former, but then



(above) Pamela and Miranda dance around like complete prats in *The Well*

again I'm not the pathologically heroic Nicholas Cage. But who cares: action films need realism like fish need bicycles, and *Con Air* is, actually, pretty good. The plot goes like this: an assortment of America's worst criminals are being moved from one maximum security prison to another. Hitching a ride on the plane is the Nicholas Cage character, who has served his sentence for provoked manslaughter (which we see in the opening credits), and is happily on his way home. But the cons, led by John Malkovich as "Cyrus the Virus", break out of their cages and hijack the plane, and Cage finds himself having to prevent innocent casualties while convincing the escapees that he's a hardened killer who's glad to be busted out.

There are good performances all round in this film. Cage is turning into quite the action hero, with this, *The Rock* and the forthcoming *Face/Off* to his credit; rather unconventionally he's got muscles and acting ability. With Cyrus, John Malkovich gets the really fun role as the brilliant unbalanced maniac type, and John Cusack is the Dostoevsky-quoting official on the ground who works out what's happening on the plane before anyone else. Also worth mentioning is Steve Buscemi, who almost steals the show as a serial killer who provides most of the really black humour in the film. (Ah, serial killers: what a wacky bunch of guys. Depraved, monstrous, yet with a penetrating sense of irony we can all learn from). Anyway, if you want a good action film, crank your suspension of disbelief up and rock on in to *Con Air*.

—TOM ROBINSON



(left) Those craazy funsters Robin Williams and Billy Crystal team up in *Fathers' Day*



# smash hits

## book

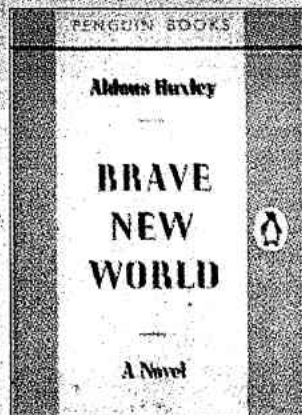
### Brave New World

For a novel written in 1932, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* still has a remarkable relevance today. It depicts an Earth almost communistic in nature, centrally commanded, everyone striving together for a better society. Yet this is a communism gone very wrong, permeated by a stringent class system and a conditioning process (pre-birth chemical treatments and childhoods filled with loud bells and electric shocks) designed to 'engineer' people and steer them towards the future occupation that has been assigned to them. And if ever discontent does emerge, the drug soma is readily available.

The remarkable power of *Brave New World*, if one looks beyond its satirical brilliance, is in its ability to shake the faith of the most cynical of readers, because like no other book, it demonstrates the arbitrariness of our existence, that what we are, and what we believe in can be and is manipulated by others. It demonstrates the solid fact of our socialisation, its irresistibility, and shows human beings as helpless but happy products of an environment perfectly calculated to account for and suppress every burst of individuality and human agency possible.

For someone used to the happy Hollywood endings of most of the books I read in high school, *Brave New World* was a shock, and hit hard on my ideas about 'freedom', 'equality', and most of all 'happiness'. There is no freedom in the *Brave New World*, no ability to grow and explore as one will according to desire or chance, but is that so important if people are happy, their desires and outcomes perfectly matched? This is a question of extreme relevance today, because of the similarity between Huxley's depiction and present social reality. Soma could be substituted for any number of today's perfectly legal drugs (from alcohol to fast food), as could Huxley's 'socialisation' for 'commercialism', the increasing 'bending' of every aspect of modern existence, including our goals, desires and identity, to facilitate and suit the market. The process of 'total conditioning' may not be in place yet, but how far off can it be when we readily admit to being the 'pleasure society', seeking like the *Brave New World* above all to maximise our own happiness?

—ROGER PATULNY



(above) *Brave New World* — the cover which now appears on those funky penguin t-shirts

## album



(above) Gene Clark wrote great music and drove a cool car

### Roadmaster

Nashville was forced to turn its head towards LA after the release of the Byrds *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* in 1968. Unfortunately, though, large chunks of Nashville chose to ignore the burgeoning sound of country rock, and that is perhaps why country music today has such badly attired 'new country' yokels such as Garth Brooks, Allan Jackson and (shudder) the Judds as its headlining acts. *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* ushered in a new hero, Gram Parsons, whose influence on the record's countrified tinge remained despite his inability to sing on it due to a record company dispute. The Byrds

**Roadmaster is all about finding a bit of breathing space on the back of a clogged and hazy late 60s.**

could have done worse than turn to their recently departed founding member Gene Clark, who had already chosen to tread down the country path with his solo debut album *With the Gosdin Brothers*, and on the project Dillard & Clark.

Whilst the angelically voiced, live hard, die young (in a by now mythical fashion) Gram Parsons has become the hero of every second alterna-rock band you care to bludgeon your ears with these days, Gene Clark quietly got on with his own wanderings. Such excursions are wonderfully compiled together on the 1973 release of *Roadmaster*. *Roadmaster* is all about finding a bit of breathing space on the back of a clogged and hazy late 60s. Clark writes incomparably tender songs, beautifully arranged with strings, piano, flute, a mellifluous bass wandering through fields of lightly picked guitars, and a fragile, breaking voice full of heartfelt conviction. His re-working of the folk standard "Rough and Rocky" is exceptional, and the expansive western landscape it inhabits sets the meter for all the other tunes on the record. In "She's the Kind of Girl", "Shooting Star", "She Don't Care About Time", and "In the Misty Morning", Clark manages to broaden traditional country themes to find a comfortable home in the hearts and minds of a younger generation.

—JAMES MCKAY

## movie

### Dead Poets Society

I fell for it big: I hated who I was supposed to hate, cheered when I was supposed to cheer, cried when I was supposed to cry. *Dead Poets Society* revolves around a half quote — "Seize the day", which is a useless saying without its better half: "put little faith in tomorrow". Most people walked away with the feeling "I'll seize the day tomorrow", when the point of the Horace's quote is that if you wait till tomorrow, you'll never seize the day. And why should you, when the only character in the film who does (Neil) later paints his father's study a darker shade of brain.

We are meant to see Neil as a martyr of those who live other people's lives. But he's only a martyr to the extent that he is testament to the lack of guts of the script writer. Movie suicides (especially meticulously planned ones) get the tears going like a fart to the face — it is the easy, safe, cowardly *Neighbours* move that hollow films use to suck you in and/or cut off loose ends. *Dead Poets Society* deals in romantic issues, not realistic ones.

The direction, camerawork and acting are good but twisted by the misguided plot. Even worse is the misuse of the poetry it fusses over: when attempting to get into a girl's knickers, the boys avoid the Sonnets (Shakespeare got all the women), and instead cannibalise Willy and Whitman and Thoreau into little bumper stickers that pull their passion down to the safe, stale mechanised level of the film.

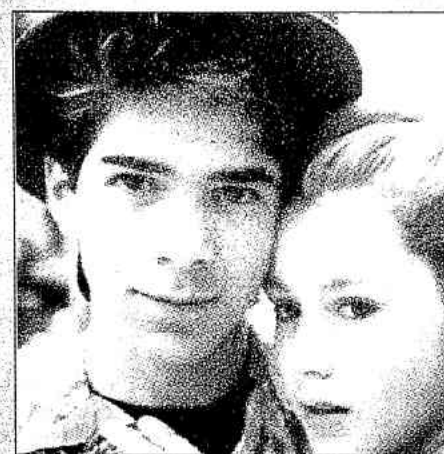
However, the movie does have something to say and if it just had the guts to stand by its claims it might have really reached people. This movie is not strong nor confrontational enough to inspire change. You want spirit and exhilaration, study the poets; you want warm fuzz, snot and Kleenex, stick with the film. Just don't analyse it.

—STUART ROBERTS



(above) Robin Williams seizes the day with strapping young lads in *Dead Poets Society*

## tv show



(above) Joey and Caitlin were meant to be together forever — damn you Tessa Campanelli

### Degrassi

Wake up in the morning, feeling tired and lonely. Gee I got to go to school. The *Degrassi* phenomena from Junior High to that tragic movie (ignoring *Kids of Degrassi Street*; nobody watched that) was a cornerstone of our generation. We wanted to go all the way with Stephanie Kaye. Or Joey. Or Snake. Wheels, Lucy, Melanie, Heather and/or Erica, Caitlin, and Yick. There where even a few sickos out there who wanted to go all the way with Mr Radich.

Michael Tunn would warn us about this show not being suitable for younger viewers, but we knew we could take it. I looked around and saw that someone was looking back at me. Hey I got a new friend. But why was *Degrassi* a friend, one that we can't forget? When you get down to it, the people weren't that nice; cheating on each other, lying, all caught up in their own emotional problems. In its run, the show covered every social issue relevant to teenagers, before anyone else. Dwayne was the first bully to get AIDS; Snake had the first homosexual brother, Heather (or was it Erica?) had the first abortion, after Spike had the first baby, L.D. was the first with cancer and *Degrassi Junior High* had the first finale to go down in flames.

*Degrassi* was Canadian Television at its best, it had more class than *You can't do that on Television*. It introduced us to the real world while we still trying to figure out if it was better to spells sucks, sux. And we learnt that in the real world everybody's mother looked the same, all dads, if they were around, were mean, and that drugs were all in the mind, except when they started to kill you. We learnt about relationships and how it was impolite to make out on someone's couch while everyone was watching, and not to go out with people named Claude who wore black and knew poetry, especially if someone like Joey was around. And then we learnt that Joey was a creep. At least we were being prepared for the real world, in a way that primary school could never emulate.

Basically the Zits got it right (for once) when they sang "Everybody wants something"; and *Degrassi* was the place to get it.

—ROSLYN DUNDAS

# FLiPside hanging on like a

profile

## I love Lucy

Judith Lucy doesn't have to say anything particularly funny to make people laugh — she just needs to speak and people are on the floor. She first gained massive popular appeal when she appeared on the ABC's cult *The Late Show*. Now she co-hosts her own radio show which rivals that of her former D-Generation co-stars. FELICITY P. MULLENS managed to chat to Judith about life after *The Late Show*, her early career as a stand-up comedian, Triple J politics, and how she manages to keep her skin so smooth and supple.

As I have always been in awe of women who are strong, vocal and female, an opportunity I could not let slip by was the chance to interview Judith Lucy, one of the presenters from Triple J's Ladies Lounge.

My first question to Lucy was one that kept coming up again and again from people whom I talked to about the upcoming interview. My question, "What is the secret to your clear skin?" She let out a roar of laughter when I asked it, and said she felt a little like Raquel Welch, and was tempted to release a book about *Beauty — the Lucy Way*. She then thought a little about the question and said it wasn't her lifestyle, but it could have something to do with the plastic surgery. She ended up attributing her great skin to the amount of water she drinks, and that this was a little practice she shares with Elle McPherson.

My next question was about her current move to radio and why she didn't do anything further with the D-Generation after the finish of *The Late Show*. Judith explained to me that this job on the radio meant something more permanent, and that having as many strings in your bow, especially for a comedian was very important: "because lets face it, I don't really want to be on the Fairstar Funship for over 55s, providing or organising light entertainment programmes".

Judith's humour comes across as original but she says her inspiration comes from situations that are real, and that people, especially her family ("because they're so fucked up"), give her the most material to work

with. I asked her about doing comedy, why she chose comedy, if she had to work at it or did it all come naturally. She said it sounded a little tragic but most of her humour comes from stories and situations that involve herself and due to this she doubts that anyone can really learn to be funny. She acknowledges that there are some great comedy schools in Melbourne and although they might be able to work with an 'uncut diamond' like herself, the only real way to learn comedy is to get out there and experience it and practice it by performing over and over again. As to why she chose comedy, Judith admitted to being a failed actor who still wanted to perform.

Judith has been doing stand up comedy for over 9 years now and no one is more surprised about that than her. She was thinking about doing comedy for over a year and finally gave herself a start by going to try out nights at 'Le Joke' and 'Last laugh' in Melbourne.

I asked her if she had to do any RSL gigs that were appalling, and she recalled some shocking shows but the one that stood out for her was the night she had to announce the message "Could all men go downstairs and use the ladies toilets because so many people have vomited in the men's they are no longer working."

I then asked her if she'd remembered any heckle calls that were reasonably witty. To this she replied a big fat no. This was all due to the fact that the majority of people calling things out are so pissed and stupid that the chances of anything being funny is



(above) Judith Lucy: her high school's class freak

very slim. She says she gets the usuals like "show us ya tits".

I asked her whether she was the 'class clown' and Judith seemed to think she was probably more like the class freak. She explained it was because her parents were so weird and that her mother was so over-protective. She was never allowed to do sport and was a complete dag, so obviously if she didn't crack a few jokes she would've been completely friendless.

As to the tension that you sometimes catch between her and Helen on the Ladies Lounge, Judith said that obviously they get along well otherwise they wouldn't be doing the show, but "people get on your wick" and often she's "in a shitty mood" or Helen is in a shitty mood: "Most of the time it is a joke but a bit of tension is to be expected when you are working with the one person five days a week".

I was also interested to know whether the ABC considered anything a 'sacred cow' and if there were certain things they were not allowed to talk about on drive time radio. Judith felt that the ABC was pretty cool in this area but of course they didn't like over use of the word 'cunt' and sure, she might not be patted on the back for saying "Hey Kids, use heroin!". Judith felt that their censorship lie in how they handle matters that are discussed on the radio.

The ABC recently did a survey of the age groups that are listening to triple J, and discovered that the average age was still 18-25. This figure surprised Lucy as she expected

the audience to be much younger, but was pleased that a large percentage of listeners were male, pleased because the ABC did have reservations about putting two female presenters together on air.

I asked if any part of the Ladies Lounge was scripted, Judith said she felt more comfortable if it was. Helen and Judith both get in there about 11:00 am everyday to discuss the theme of the show and go about getting people to come on the show. They spend a lot of time going through papers and noting down things they are going to talk about, but they certainly don't practice gags.

Finally we turned to the topic of Canberra, and the fact that she was none too impressed about coming down for 'Unearthed'. Judith said that was a bit of a joke and that after being here she changed her mind completely because the "city was so beautiful and the people were all so nice" ... and to be honest I couldn't hear any sarcasm either, which is a rare occurrence for a conversation with Judith Lucy. I told her that Canberra listeners were under the impression it was the sex tour that changed her mind, and maybe it was the merchandise on offer like Penis drink bottles that would see her coming back time and time again. She replied that with the amount of sexy stuff on offer that night "how could a girl not fall in love with the place. And going home with a show bag packed full of more pornos that you could poke a stick at" was an obvious indicator of the great weekend she had in Canberra.

j u d i t h l u c y

**Next issue:**

Alex Papps has lived the show business dream. From Brown Street bad-boy Vinnie in *The Henderson Kids*, to Summer Bay's resident Romeo and car accident victim Frank — is there anything he can't do? Next issue, Alex lends us his journalism skills in *Woroni's* feature article "Ten great hairstyles to try at home". Miss it and miss out.



**Footnotes**

# Tacky, spacky and made of placky

I recently left Canberra for a week to take in the beautiful sights of Melbourne. My reason for visiting Melbourne, apart from taking in a little 'fire blight' and to see where all the doves got roasted at the opening of the Crown Casino, was to hunt for the tackiest souvenir imaginable, and maybe keep an eye out for Jaidyn Leske at the same time.

My friend Carolyn and I have been holding this little competition for years now. Whenever we both go away at the same time, our quest is to bring back the best souvenir from the town or country you are visiting. The term 'best' is, however, interpreted somewhat differently with us. For us, 'best' is tacky, gaudy, and shell encrusted. You see snow domes just do not cut it any more. We want to find those stores that take merchandising to absolute limits. We want to find a souvenir that we can pick up and wonder who would buy. Often the only reassuring conclusion we reach is that the people buying these things are people like us, or maybe others have to buy it just because they are dazzled by the brashness of store owners who charge money for things that are so obviously crap.

Being a veteran at these souvenir challenges I thought I had the thing in the bag and I was given that extra boost of confidence because I was going to be passing through Gundagai. The dog on the tucker box is a tourist attraction for most, but for me the attraction is the gift shops. It is here you can see merchandising gone mad. Pencils, tea towels, stubbie holders — any flat porous surface had Gundagai written all over it.

A hint for any of you inspired by Carolyn's and my pastime: the way to strike gold is to head straight for bargain baskets. Here is where you will indeed discover that rare gem of pure Taiwanese craftsmanship, but be careful because the number of fluorescent coloured items in that basket can be blinding.

I was all ready to purchase what I thought would be the winning souvenir for '97 when I panicked. Was I being too hasty? Would there be bigger and better once I reached Melbourne? I wasn't sure, but I was not about to risk my title as the undefeated winner. (A title that I will have to admit was easy to come by considering the last place I

visited was Surfers' Paradise.) However, hesitate I did.

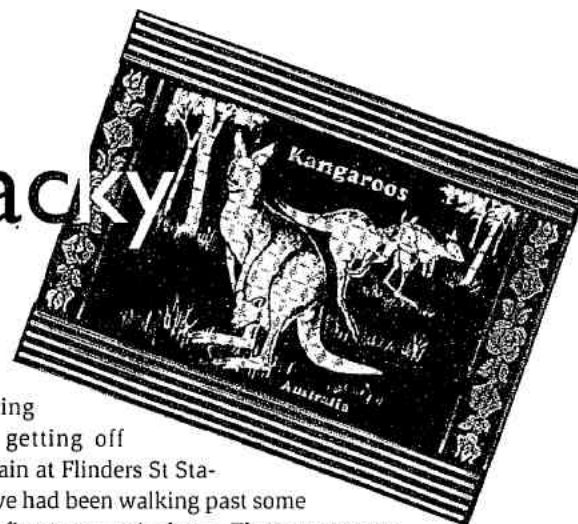
My first day in the beautiful city of Melbourne gave me cause to worry. You see the winner gets shouted dinner at the restaurant of their choice and I really wanted to go to The Oak Room at the Hyatt and my chances were starting to look pretty grim. For a start, I couldn't find any nude postcards, or any that were printed before idiots thought flaming Steve Parish had beautiful ideas. I wasn't asking for much nudity really, maybe just a chick in cut away



denim shorts hopping onto a tram. Melbourne thus far had denied me that little tradition so I was even more determined to scour that great city and its souvenir shops.

By the second day things were looking even worse, I was beginning to think that either Melbourne had class or that Jeff Kennett, as well as pinching every other state's major tourist attraction had some plan to rid Melbourne of bad taste. I found this to be false when I realised the Polly Woodside was still there.

The third day came around and I was starting to feel the pain associated with losing, until we realised that every



morning after getting off the train at Flinders St Station we had been walking past some of the finest souvenir shops. There were rows of them all equipped with their \$5 dollar watches and ladies out the front with microphones reassuring travellers with "you won't get cheaper anywhere else". This is of course a huge fib because I'm sure that the company which supplies one souvenir shop flaunts their wares along the whole street, and how much of a reduction can you give on a product that would've cost 20c to make. I also do not believe many other companies would be specialising in fur covered purses and dried flower arrangements.

Anyway, it was here at Flinders St, that I found it. Down the back with other items such as faux bronze plaques of Australia with big clocks in the middle of them, it appeared to me. I was speechless for a couple of minutes and I reached out for it not quite believing my find. I am still not sure how to describe it and I am always going to wonder who had the sterling idea to make these little babies, but, really, the thing that stole my speech was that the proprietors of this store had the hide to ask \$8 for it. I mean take a look at the photo, would you pay \$8 for a black plastic frame, admittedly with gold detailing, but containing a really bad representation of Australia's greatest asset. The kangaroo's face looks freakishly human. I talked the guy down to \$5 (which I still think is daylight robbery!) and I was in business.

I stepped out from beneath the shop's awning, I had my meal ticket under my arm and was pleased to be away from the chick with the microphone and the droning voice. Nothing could have caused me to frown at that moment... then it rained.

I'm home now, I've had my free meal, I just belched and I'm contentedly stroking my souvenir.

—PATRICIA MCCANN

**classifieds**

**Accommodation information** on the World Wide Web: University Accommodation Services maintains a list of accommodation wanted and available on the WWW: <http://www.anu.edu.au/admin/housing/accom.html>.

**Accommodation wanted** for visiting South African academic from 20 November 1997 until end of January 1998. Willing to house sit and care for pets. Married, no children. Visiting fellow at ANU. Please contact: Dr. Greg Mills, National Director, SA Institute of International Affairs, PO Box 31596, Braamfontein 2017 South Africa. Tel (27-11) 3392021; Fax 3392154; E-mail: SAIIAgen@global.co.za

**Cheap Accommodation Available:**

Heating is free, walking distance to ANU and Civic, quiet environment in a 4 bedroom unit with own telephone in room. Would suit student, must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident on a low income (under \$360/week). We are looking for a flatmate who is a non-smoker and has a mature, responsible attitude towards living with 3 other people. You must be interested in contributing to our friendly home environment with weekly cleaning and the possibility of shared cooking (negotiable). Please contact Alison on 2578009 or Karina on 2301624.

**Spanish tutor:** Native Spanish speaker, experience as a foreign language teacher, low rates. Call Claudia on 258 5308.

**Therapeutic massage:** Do you have a headache or sore muscles? Are you stressed? You need a therapeutic massage. \$25 for one hour, call Leandra on 288 8868.

**Wanted:** Volunteer typists. The disability support unit urgently needs volunteer typists willing to sit with a PhD student with a disability on a regular basis (flexible hours) to assist with typing thesis. Contact Margaret Miller on 2495036 (9am-1pm), or email: Miller@anu.edu.au. **For sale:** Microwave Samsung 28 litre - three and a half years old and in good condition. Original purchase documents, pack and cookbook available. Price \$120 Contact Sajjad/Nipa 2811492.

**For sale:** Mac LC Colour and Mac Plus,

Laser Writer (will separate) cheap! Phone Byron 2475749.

**For Sale:** Mens racing bike, 10 speed, with a lock and helmet. Pretty good condition, very reliable, only \$75. Mens racing bike, 10 speed with a lock and helmet. Good condition, very reliable, only \$55. Phone 2854368.

**Typing:** Need help typing? I can help with assignments, theses, resumes, applications, reports, almost anything! Typing plus proofing, formatting and printing. Hard copy and/or disc (mac or IBM). Very reasonable student rates. Call Claire on 2485551.

**Yoga:** Canberra School of Art Lecture Theatre. Recommencing Tuesdays 12-1pm. Starting Aug 5, cost \$4. Please bring mat/blanket. Enquires: Cecile Hopper 2573596.

**ANU Classical Society Annual Roman Feast:** Friday 15 August 7pm for 7:30, Crisp Tea Room 5 course Roman Banquet Tickets: Members \$2, non-members \$4. RSVP: Phone Claire on 2486695. BYO Cutlery.

**Meditation Sahaja Yoga:** Every Wednesday 12 noon. Off the lounge, university union above the stream. No charge.

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